カバーデザイン　奈藤康喜

イエスタデイをうたって vol.6 冬目景

BJ ビージャン YJC

イエスタデイをうたって vol.6 冬目景

KEITO UME

SING "YESTERDAY" FOR ME

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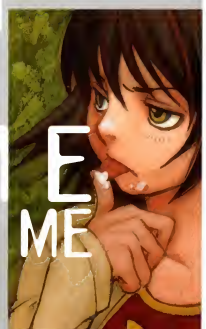
雑誌 44265－54

Rikuo has started working full-time at the photography studio. Alongside the increased workload, his head is also full of thoughts of love and romance... Meanwhile, separate love interests appear for Haru and Shinako. Does this bode trouble for their relationships?



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イエスタデイをうたって6　冬目 景

イエスタデイをうたって❶－❻……冬目 景

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甘い生活❶－❺……弓月 光
弓月光傑作選❶めたボリ力……弓月 光
隣まで届た顔❶－❼……本宮ひろ志
まだ、生きてる…❷……本宮ひろ志
傷だらけの仁清❶－❷……猿渡哲也
雑王-じょうおう-❶－❻……倉科 遼/耽林 直
SOLEIL-ソレイユ-❶－❸……倉科 遼/耽林 直
がばいばあちゃんばあちゃん❶－❸……島田洋七/石川サブロウ
オレンジ屋根の小さな家❶－❸……山花典之
ノエルの気持ち❶－❹……山花典之
ソムリエール❶－❽……城アラキ/松井勝法
モンキーピープル❶－❹……稗 英勝
世にも奇妙な漫☆画太郎❶－❼……漫☆画太郎
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怨み屋本舗 REBOOT❶－❷……栗原正尚
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重能力者 小日向寡子の嘘❶－❸……甲斐谷 忍
ラブラドール・和田ラテヲ❶－❷……和田ラテヲ
爆届香-バクレイオン-❶－❸……佐木飛朗斗/山田秋太郎
ばりこん鉄❶－❸……能條純一
くノ一魔宝伝❶－❸……山口康司
シャトゥーン-ヒグマの森-❶－❷……畑田俊也/奥谷浩教
水島新司野球傑作選❶くそ暑い夏……水島新司
クース-ノーてくらと秋茶 夢の森-❶……あおきてつお

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SING "YESTERDAY" FOR ME

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イエスタデイを
うたって
vol.
6
KEI TOUME
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Sing Yesterday for Me vol.6

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★ This is a work of fiction. It bears absolutely no relation to any existing people, organizations or events

Innocent and Blue

scene 1

SIGN MANAGER
総 務
Right then. Here are all the necessary documents. Just fill them in and bring them back when you can.
Oh, and make sure you sign them with a registered stamp, eh?
O-Of course.
You're a full time employee now.
Congratulations.

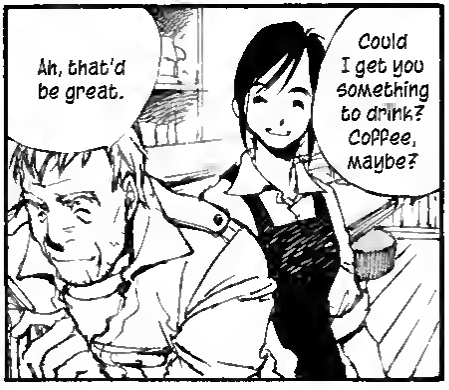
(NOTE) OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS IN JAPAN ARE 'SIGNED' WITH A STAMP OF THE OWNER'S NAME; AND THESE STAMPS MUST BE REGISTERED TO BE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED

MILK HALL

Thank you so much for fixing all this stuff for us.
I've replaced the hinge, so it should be all right for the time being.

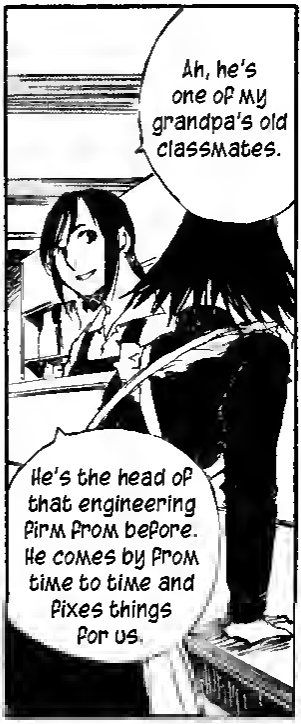
How's this?

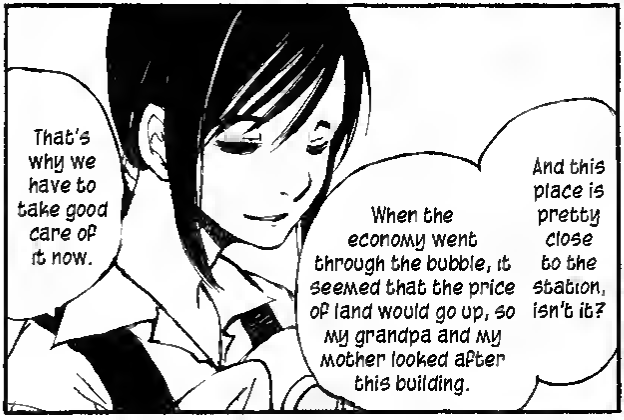
Thanks for all the hard work!


Could I get you something to drink? Coffee, maybe?
Ah, that'd be great.

Oh, my own maid eh?
Ah, I'm a waitress.
Really, sorry to always have you do this.
Don't worry about it. I have plenty of free time anyway.
Besides, my son comes here all the time, and if I don't put these skills to use once in a while I'll get rusty.
SFX: SIP
Thanks for the coffee.
If anything crops up, just give me a call.
SFX: TINK
Say, was that guy one of the old regulars or something?

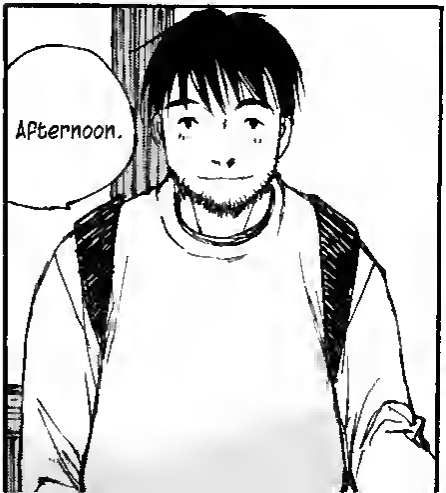
He's pretty old, isn't he? He does seem to have a soft-spot for this place, though...
Yeah. This place was built right after the war ended.


Ah, he's one of my grandpa's old classmates.
He's the head of that engineering firm from before. He comes by from time to time and fixes things for us.


And this place is pretty close to the station, isn't it?
When the economy went through the bubble, it seemed that the price of land would go up, so my grandpa and my mother looked after this building.
That's why we have to take good care of it now.

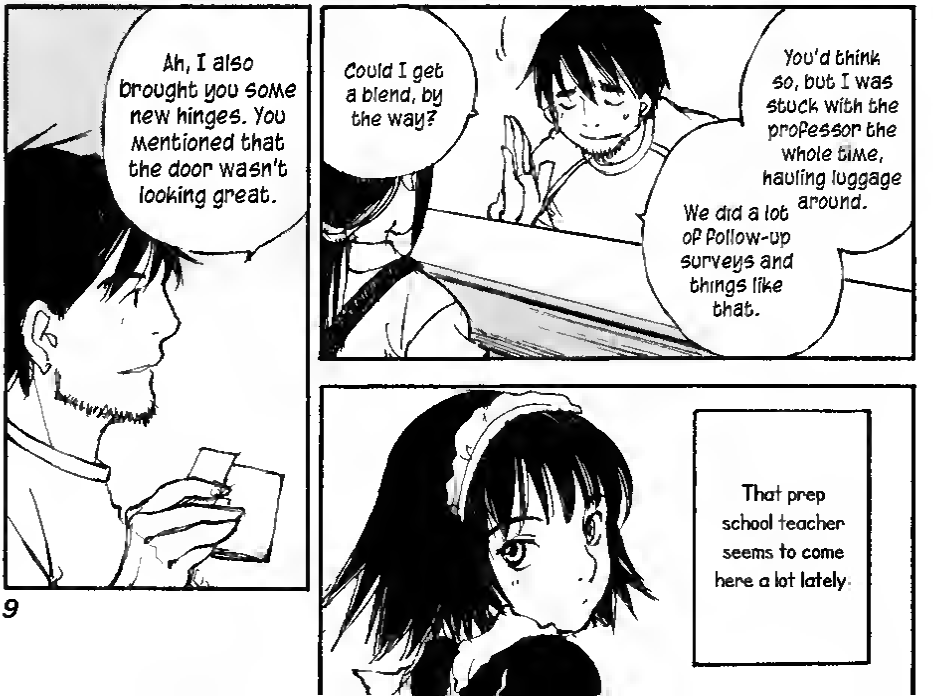
Ah-

Welcome!
カラン
SFX
JINGLE


Afternoon.

I went for an antiques seminar.
Here, I brought gifts for you, too.
Wow, what's with that huge backpack?
I just got back from Kyoto.
Yay, yatsu-hashi!
Kyoto, huh? How nice.

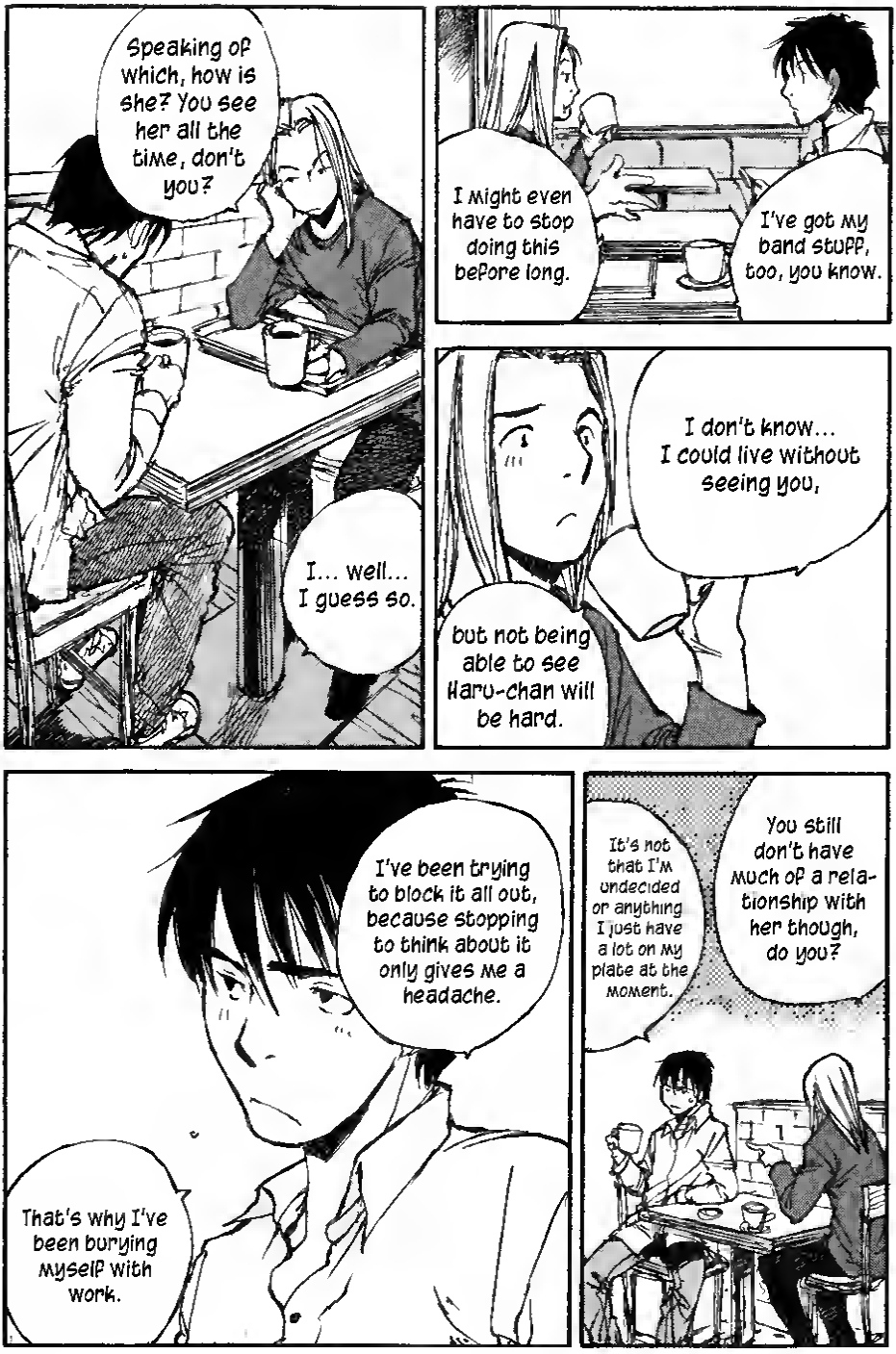
NOTE: YATSUHASHI IS A HARD BAKED RICE BISCUIT, FAMOUSLY SOLD AS SOUVENIR CONFECTIONARY IN KYOTO.

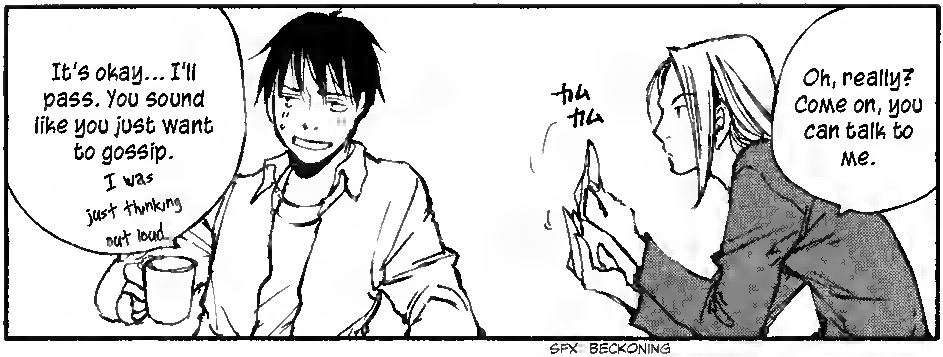

Ah, I also brought you some new hinges. You mentioned that the door wasn't looking great.
Could I get a blend, by the way?
You'd think so, but I was stuck with the professor the whole time, hauling luggage around.
We did a lot of follow-up surveys and things like that.
That prep school teacher seems to come here a lot lately.

I'm worried about how calm and composed she is.
He's an adult.
Actually... Ikeda-san's grandpa came by and fixed that for us just now.
Well, he does seem to like this town, doesn't he?
Is this just an ability adults have?
It gives the place a lovely, calm atmosphere.
Still, I'm just sitting here, watching those two make small talk, and time drifts by.
Hm, it's probably impossible for Rikuo and me.

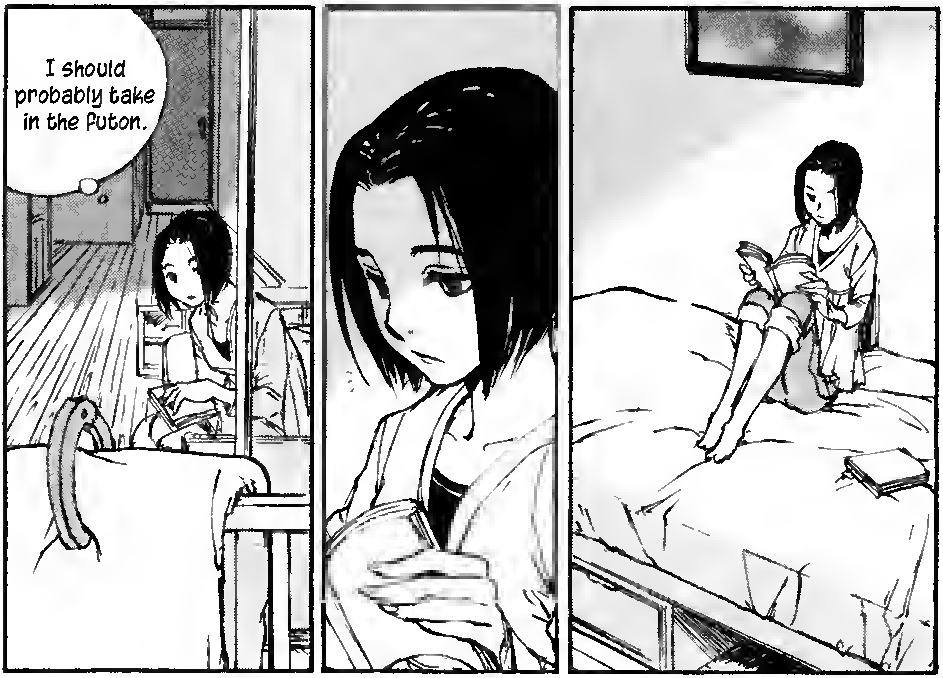
Is he angry at me or something?
But I haven't done anything wrong, have I...?
SFX: IRRITATED
もや
もや
What's up with him? Does he not like me after all? I don't know whether he's coming or going.
Maybe he's trying to pull a disappearing act or something...?
Speaking of which, he hasn't come here since then.
And he keeps saying he's busy, so I haven't gone over with food, either.
It's like... I get the feeling he's avoiding me.
SFX: SHOCK
Hmph
Go die for all I care.
ズドーン
.....

SFX: PAUSE
Oh, you like sweet stuff?
Yeah. You didn't know?
What's up?
A chill just ran up my spine...
SFX: CHATTER
Yeah... Doing both jobs is getting too difficult, so I'M thinking of quitting my job at the convenience store...
Yeah, me too.
We could hand our notices in on the same day or something.
I come here for doughnuts before work all the time, y'know.
Anyway, I'M really glad to hear you're working full time now.


Speaking of which, how is she? You see her all the time, don't you?
I... well... I guess so.
I might even have to stop doing this before long.
I've got my band stuff, too, you know.
I don't know... I could live without seeing you,
but not being able to see Haru-chan will be hard.
I've been trying to block it all out, because stopping to think about it only gives me a headache.
That's why I've been burying myself with work.
It's not that I'm undecided or anything I just have a lot on my plate at the moment.
You still don't have much of a relationship with her though, do you?


It's okay... I'll pass. You sound like you just want to gossip.
I was just thinking out loud.
Oh, really? Come on, you can talk to me.
tilt tilt

SFX: BECKONING

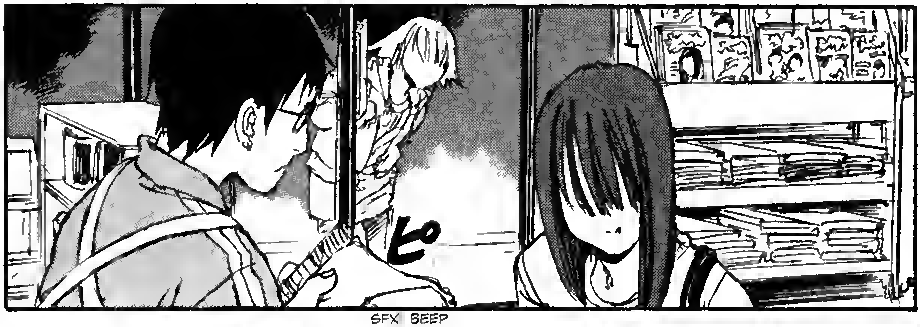


SFX: POMF
This feels great...
Ah... I need to go shopping, too.
Hmm...
I said I'd definitely go on Monday...
But what should I do about visiting Rou-kun's place?

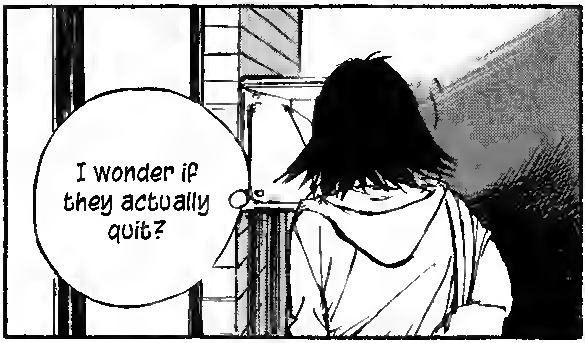
Always running away won't solve anything, will it...
SFX: SLAP SLAP
ぺちぺち
.....
Okay, let's do this!
There's his dad to visit, too!

Rou's late getting home again tonight, isn't he?
Oh... r-really?
I'll wrap this up for him, okay?
You've got work tomorrow, haven't you?
You should go home before it gets too late. I don't know when he'll be back.
D-Don't worry, I will...

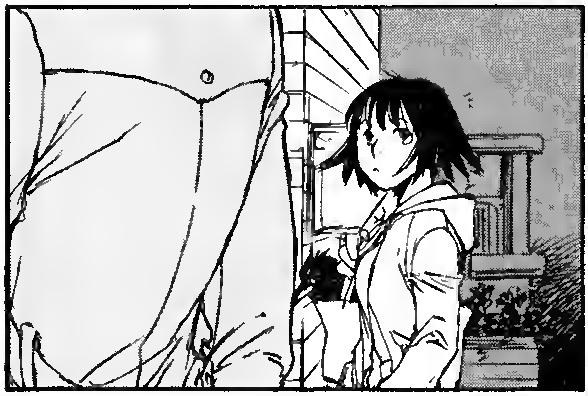
FOR
RENT



SFX: BEEP


I wonder if they actually quit?

Hmm. No sign of Rikuo or Kinoshita-san.



Shinako-sensei!
SFX: TWITCH
ぎゅ
Ah... hello, Nonaka-san.
Do you think he quit his job here?
If you're looking for Rikuo, I don't think he's in.
Oh... I see...
Maybe.
Last I heard, things were getting busy at the photography studio.
You haven't heard from him, either?

I take it you haven't, either?
I-I'm afraid not... I haven't seen much of him lately...
I-
I see.
It seems he's been way too busy, so I haven't had chance to hang out with him.
Yeah.
If he was planning to quit here, I wish he'd have said something to me.
But... I don't know...
I guess that's just how he is.

How do I put it... once he decides to do something, he doesn't waste any time...
He was probably still worried about it but once he makes up his mind he doesn't stop to ask other people. He just goes through with it.
.....
Yeah... I think I know what you mean.
But if he has quit his job here,
I wonder if he'll be able to manage with just his job at the studio?
Back then at the train station...
I don't think he'd have quit if he wasn't confident about it.

Anyway, good night!
Ah, all right... Take care.
It seemed like he was going to say something. but he stopped .
I wonder if that's what he wanted to tell me?
Ah... no, it's nothing.
I haven't seen him since that night at my apartment.
I feel awkward about what happened. so I've let him be...
But...

I don't want this awkwardness to drive a wedge between us...
I wonder if I should try and make the first move...?
After all, he could be angry at me over what happened.
.....

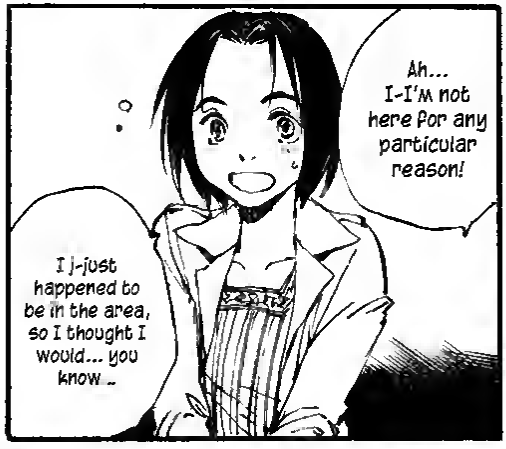
scene 1 End

Translation: Jazz
Proofread: Blueberry
Clean: Freijie
Typeset: Seyrine
QC: Edward

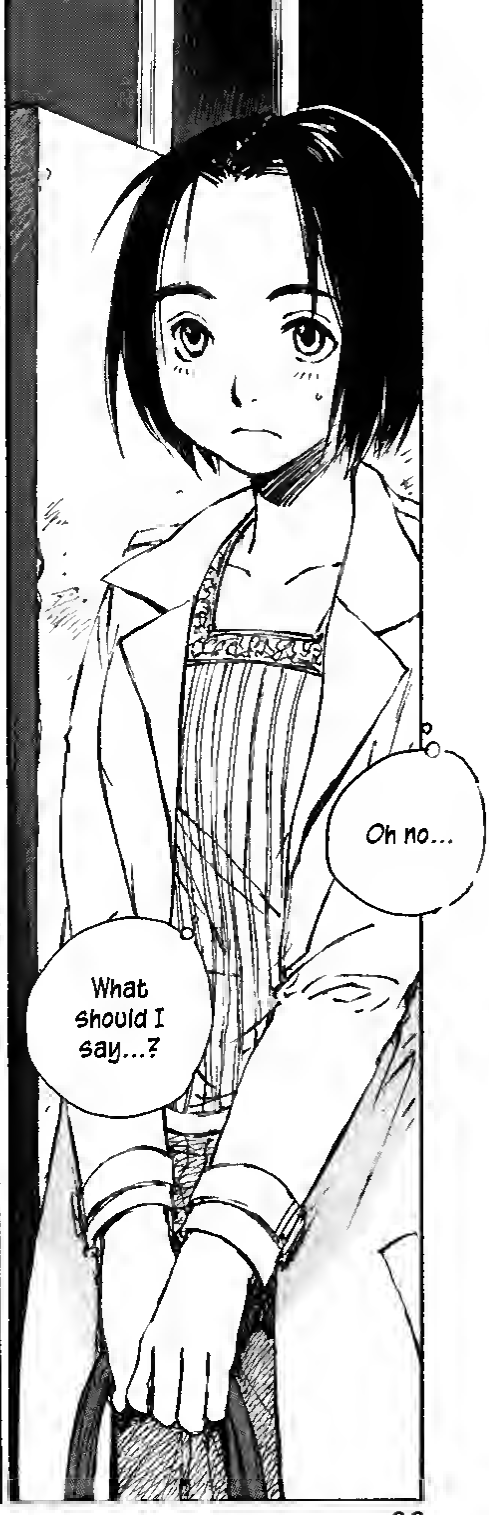
Yesterday wo Utatte
by Toume Kei
A Village Idiot Scanlation

scene2

What's up?
...Wh-


Ah... I-I'm not here for any particular reason!
I j-just happened to be in the area, so I thought I would... you know...

...
...

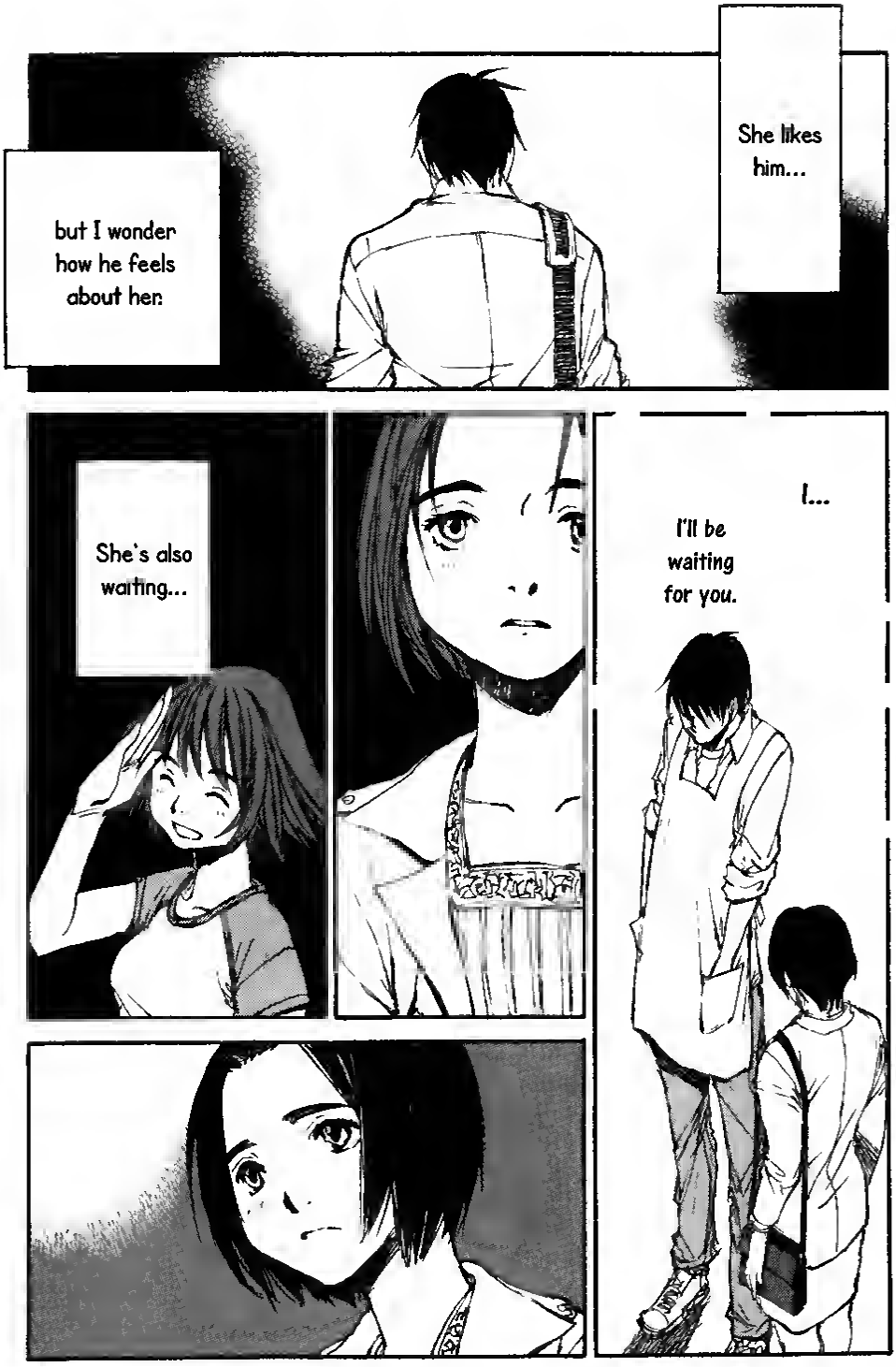

Oh no...
What should I say...?

Wait, does this mean Shinako came to see me...? Does that mean she's concerned about me after all?
This is nowhere near my route home...
That sounds way too fishy!
Ah!
...
This is where I should invite her in for a cup of tea...
But... I haven't got any tea left, and I don't have anything else to offer her, because my apartment is as barren as the Dead Sea right now...
But you weren't there, and... I wondered if you had quit your job...
I- I was on my way back to Rou-kun's place, and I passed the convenience store...

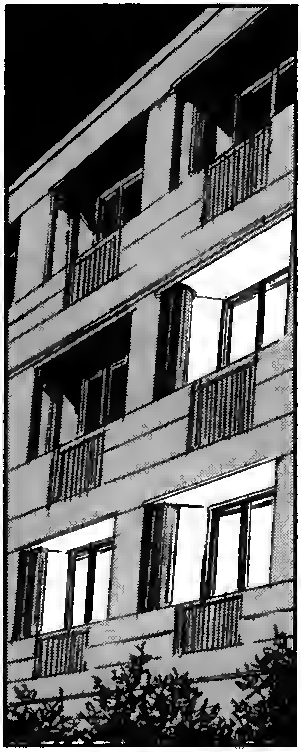
No, it's okay.
So you're devoting yourself to your current part-time job then?
...Ah, I thought so.
Sorry, I should have said something
Ah... yeah.
I quit not too long ago.
I neglected to tell you about the situation there as well...
Ah, well...

Yeah. To be honest, I didn't have much confidence when they were interviewing me...
I mean, it's not like I've had any schooling in photography or anything.
That's great isn't it?
You haven't been there that long either!
But either way, it seems as though they're okay with that.
It's pretty unusual, but they don't seem to have any preconceptions about me, they just seem to like me.
So they're willing to let me learn a little at a time.
The more I worked there, the more I realized it.
I just... like tinkering with cameras, y'know?
I'm glad to hear it.
I mean, that's how you are. Once you've made up your mind, you just keep at it.
Eh?

...
Yeah, that's what No-
Really?
That's what I wanted to say but for some reason, the words wouldn't come out.
"That's what Nonaka-san said."

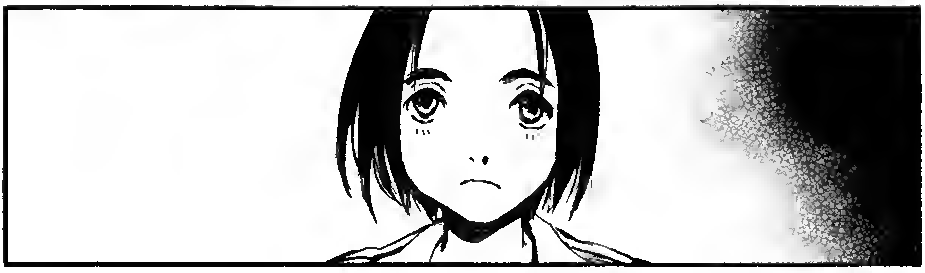

She likes him...
but I wonder how he feels about her.
She's also waiting...
I'll be waiting for you.
I...

Thanks.
And sorry for holding you up.
Ah, don't worry about it.



Yeah, good night.

Well then...
Good night.



I'll head home, okay?
Perhaps it's because she's here?
Perhaps ...
Fukuda-kun was right.
Perhaps there are no second chances.

If...
If Shinako had said something like that to me just now...
What would I do?
That's what he said, isn't it?
This is probably a critical moment for you.
What if...
she would not have rejected me this time...?
...

Why is it that I'm only thinking of this now?
What the hell.
...
The wedding photographs you took for us came out really well.
My parents are really pleased with them.
Ah... I'm very glad to hear it.
It's only a handful of side dishes I had left over, but feel free to help yourself
Ah, you don't have to fuss over me. Sorry for coming and imposing on you, even though it's your day off.

Do you have a girlfriend?
Uh-
He's had a crush on this one girl since high school. One-sided, of course.
Ahh. I see.
Well, that's nice.
I think that's a wonderful thing.
How?
It irritates me just looking at his situation.
Uh... sorry, I guess?
You shouldn't look at everything in black and white, Taka-chan.
Quit calling me that!
It's a pain in the ass. You spend all your time thinking about this and that.
Takanori

doesn't it make sense to settle down and get married to that like-minded person, and to share the energy you get from being in love?
And when you've had enough of the romance games, and the excitement of it all,
SFX: HA HA HA
はーっはっは
Since we both married so late, it kind of makes me wish I could turn back the clock.
She and I both want to focus on our jobs at the moment, you see.
but me, I'm not interested in thinking like that to begin with.
The ones that like to think "What is love?!" are fine and all...
Ahh...
I see...
SFX: WHOOSH
...is what he'd probably say.
so I didn't say anything.
ヒュゥゥ
You've got to be kidding me! That's inexcusable!
Huh? A love triangle!?
ピン
SFX: POINT

What is this feeling?
I don't even understand what's going on myself.
Still, I guess that talking about it with someone isn't going to change anything...
SFX: SMASH
Are you okay?
Ah-

I'm fine, really.
Don't worry, it's nothing.
What's wrong? You've been spacing out all day.
I mean, you were grinding normal beans instead of coffee beans earlier!
Dear Me.
Yeah...
?
SFX: DASH
Haru-chan?

I've got you now, Rikuo!
Wh-what are you doing!?
Gotcha!
SFX: GRAB

If you say so! One customer coming through!

I'm glad you decided to come and visit us again.
Welcome to the shop!

Let go! I was planning to come inside anyway!

Water.
Towel.
SFX: CLATTER
...
Welcome!
I-I'll have a blend, please...
Thanks, I guess...
Now, why didn't you tell me you stopped working at the convenience store?
I-It's not like I was keeping it a secret from you...
I... just forgot to mention it, I guess...
Oh really?

Not-
Not at all...
Well, I have, but that's beside the point.
Don't you think you've been avoiding me lately?
SFX: STARE
Wh-
What!?
SFX: CLACK
カチャ
No reas-
Why?
Tell me why? Come on, spit it out!
So you have been avoiding me!
SFX: SLAM
Really?

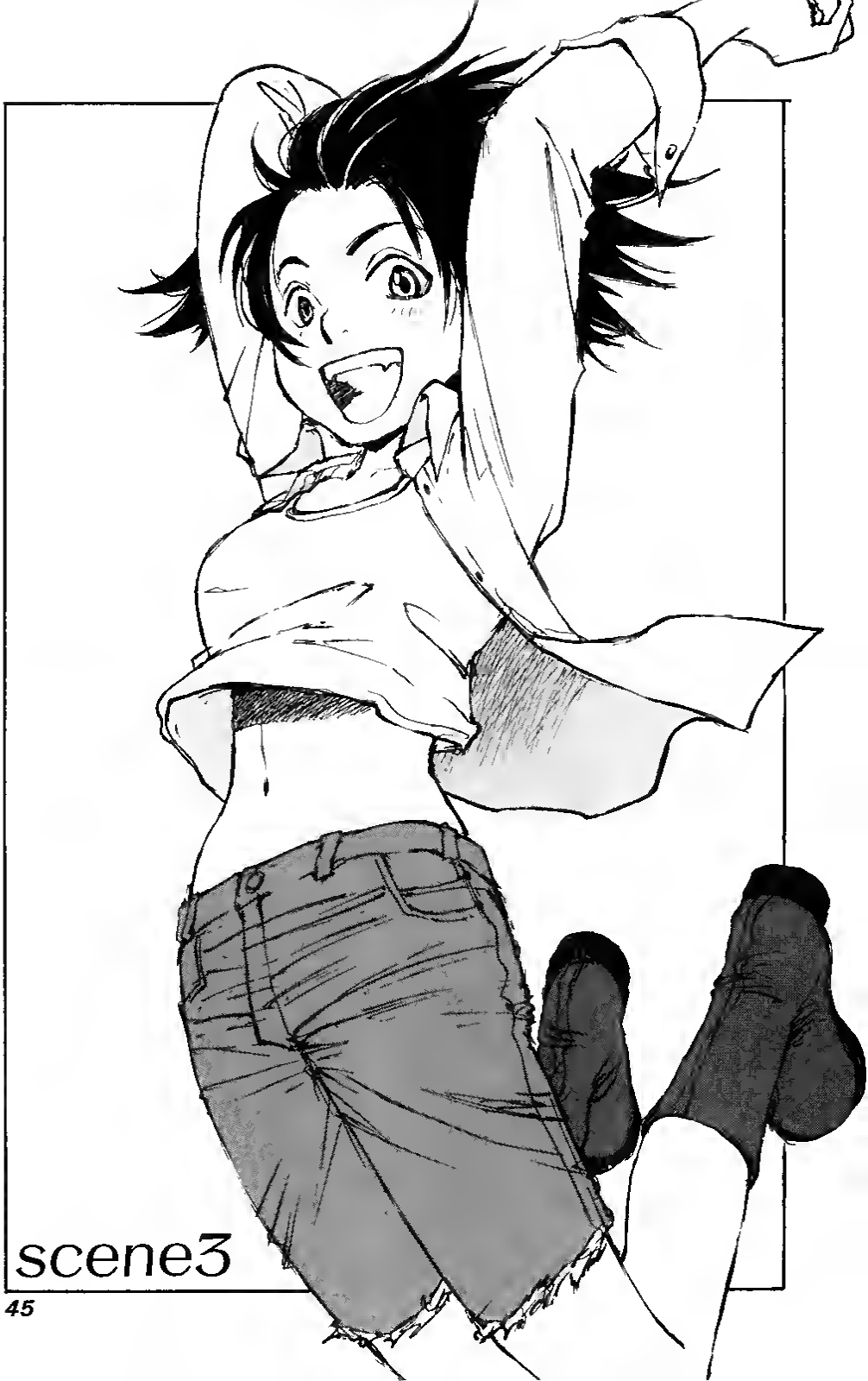
What are you talking about?
We're friends aren't we?
SFX: LOOKS AWAY
!
Huh?
...
SFX: PAT
Ah-
Grr...
Come on, why would I possibly want to avoid you?
I really don't get it.
I wouldn't say these are feelings of love, I'm just being overly intimate with her.

Even with my lackluster love experience,
in this case, I don't get the feeling that it is.
Quit it already, you're messing up my hair!
He's such a cowardly sod, coming here like this and not giving me any answers at all!

I think I'm making too much of this.
See? Friends.

The two of us are just friends.
For now...

SFX: CLATTER
I'm glad the two of you were able to make up.
Well... we hadn't exactly fallen out with each other to begin with...
I think that's for the best.


scene3

I've brought your milk bar!
Hello?
SIGN: ARTS ACADEMY
SFX: HEAVE
Ah, Haru-chan! Thanks!
Where is Mister bear today?
Oh?

Actually, he turned up here around the time they were taking their high school entrance exams.
He's got relatives up here or something.
Kyushu?
But he's the same age as Kyouko-san, isn't he? I'd have thought his parents would be living somewhere 'round here?
Seems like he's got a job too.
Ah. He's on temporary leave.
From what I gather, he's returned to his family's home in Kyushu.
Did he say anything to Kyouko-San?
I don't really know the details, but it seems as though something happened, and he had to leave to go home pretty suddenly.
...

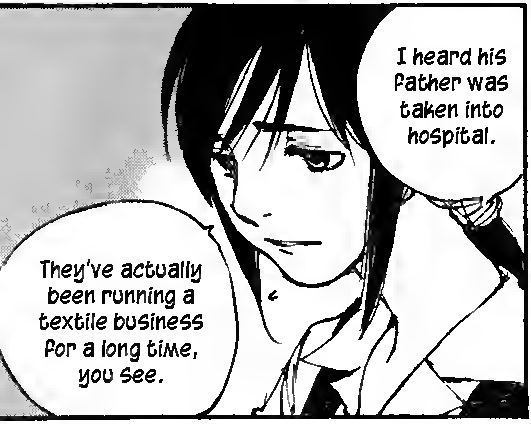
I knew something seemed off these last two or three days.
Oh, it's the runt from the delivery service.
Wh-What are you talking about? You've just been growing!
I'm sure you were only about this tall last time...
Is it me, or have you shrunk a little more since the last time I saw you?
At least you can't call me baby-faced anymore
I know, right? I'm still in my growth period.
Sorry, but I don't have time to chat with you!
Is that even possible? Ah-

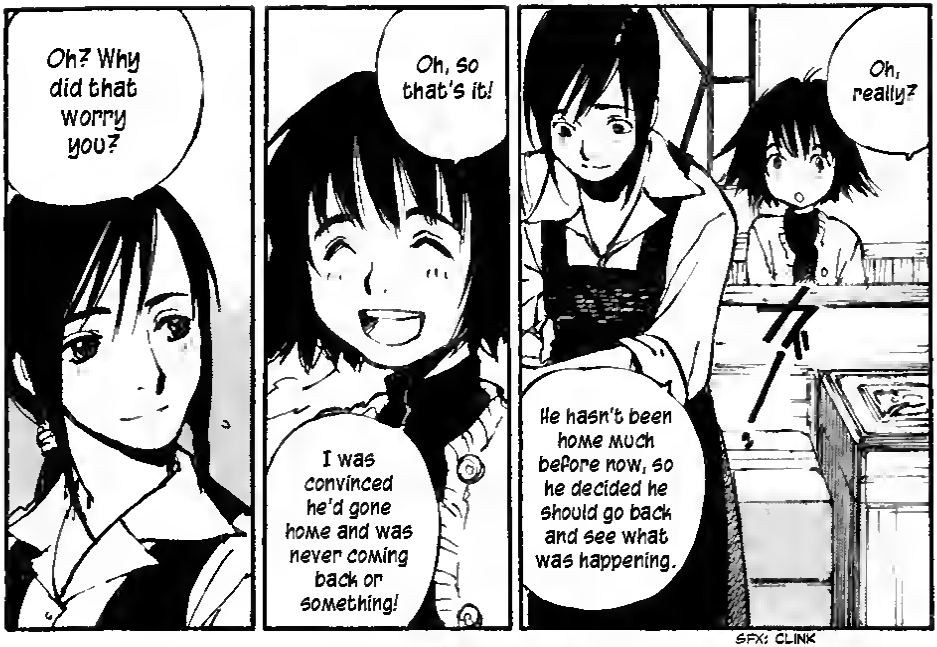
I-I was wondering...
Would you mind if I asked for your advice about something?
Wh-what is it?
SFX: DASH
Huh?
?
Hayakawa-kun?
Well...
There's this girl I like.
Wha?

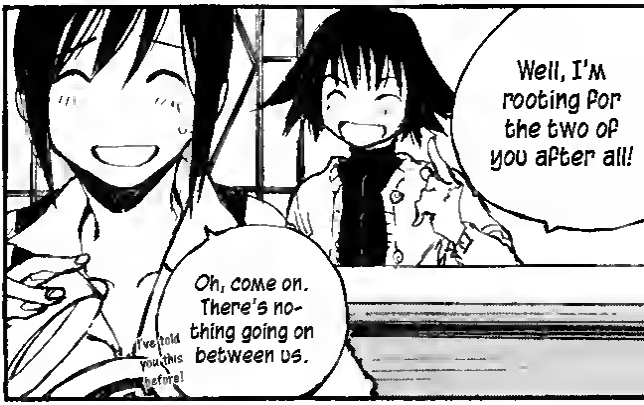
What are you blurting out all of a sudden?
What can I say? Love's just one of those things that's there before you know it... y'know?
It's like something from a love song.
SFX: THUD
ナル
Is this a new joke of yours?
...
No, not at all!
Is this what they call 'love at first sight'?
It was during lunch break, y'see. I saw this amazing girl down there.
SFX: BOUNCE

The way she stood there, kicking that thieving vending machine with all her might...
It was... refreshing!
ニヤニヤ
That ain't love at all!

SFX ENTRANCED

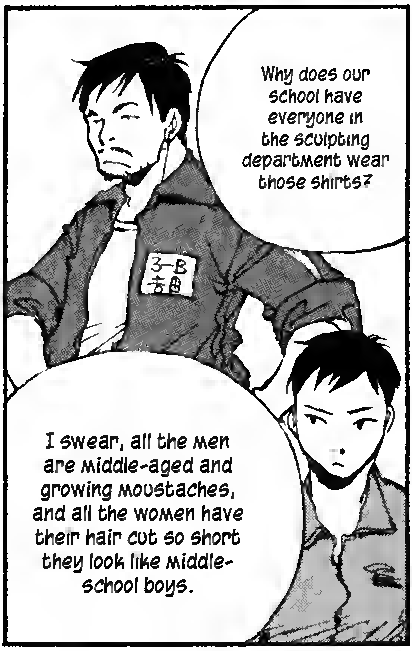



Oh? Why did that worry you?
Oh, so that's it!
I was convinced he'd gone home and was never coming back or something!
Oh, really?
He hasn't been home much before now, so he decided he should go back and see what was happening.
SFX: CLINK


Well, I'm rooting for the two of you after all!
Oh, come on. There's nothing going on between us.
I've told you this before!

Are you sure she was from the sculpting department?
Yeah, I think so. She was wearing one of those jerseys.

They look like they do weight lifting contests
Nah, he doesn't sport such fine muscles as these guys do.
Well, you can't say Aburaka didn't fit in well here.


Why does our school have everyone in the sculpting department wear those shirts?
I swear, all the men are middle-aged and growing moustaches, and all the women have their hair cut so short they look like middle-school boys.

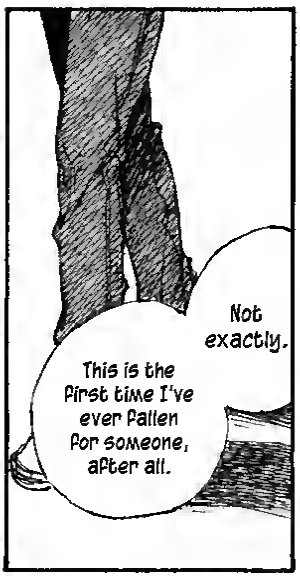
Ah!

That's her!
Oh? Lessee...

...
She's a lot prettier than I was expect-ing...
After hearing about her kicking the crap out of the vending machine, I was expecting someone a bit... rougher.
She's quite cute, ain't she?
What am I supposed to do?
Is that a serious question? If you want to date her, you should try getting acquainted with her first.
But how do I do that?
Yeah, I guess.
How the hell should I know? I thought you were supposed to be getting better with girls?

Give it a rest, will you? You're going to make me puke.
I guess this is one of those times where you could say... it's love.
Why do you have to act like a little girl about it?

Ah... what is this suffocating feeling?
はぁ...


Not exactly.
This is the first time I've ever fallen for someone, after all.

What do you mean, "probably"?
Things have gotten complicated, so lately, I've just been preparing for the long battle ahead...

What happened with you, anyway?
What about that childhood friend?

D'you have to ask?
There's nothing to report... probably...

But... what if-
For crying out loud, I don't know! Go and find out for yourself!
What should I do if it turns out she's older than me...?
What does it matter if she's two or three years older?
But... what should I do if there are other guys who like her?
And what if there are?
Are you listening? As far as society's concerned, it's a dog-eat-dog world. You've gotta go for broke.
Y'hear me?
Go for broke.
So that's how you did it?
Going for broke? That sounds bad.
I think it's the same as entrance exams.
We go for them all at once, and there's nothing to be scared of.
SFX: HMPH

You've gotta be like a zombie! You've gotta seize the moment and attack with all your heart, you've gotta stick to your guns!
You've gotta pass judgment on that indecisive judge!
This sounds less like the words of a childhood friend and more like those of a stalker, don't you think?
Yeah. I went for broke.
But I knew it'd be like that from the start.
At some time or another, you've got to take the risks into your own hands.
Eleven, huh?
That took a while.
Good work.
Just drop by tomorrow. Any time after noon is fine.
I've got another magazine to shoot for this week, so things could get pretty busy.

H-Haru?
Rikuo.
What are you doing around here?
Wh-
SFX: PANTING
I've already had dinner.
It's okay, so long as we can walk home together.
I was waiting for you!
You're always saying you'll be getting off work late, so I thought I'd wait here.

...
You must have been waiting here a while.
About an hour. But that's okay, it just means you have to walk me all the way home!
R
R
SFX: CLATTER CLATTER

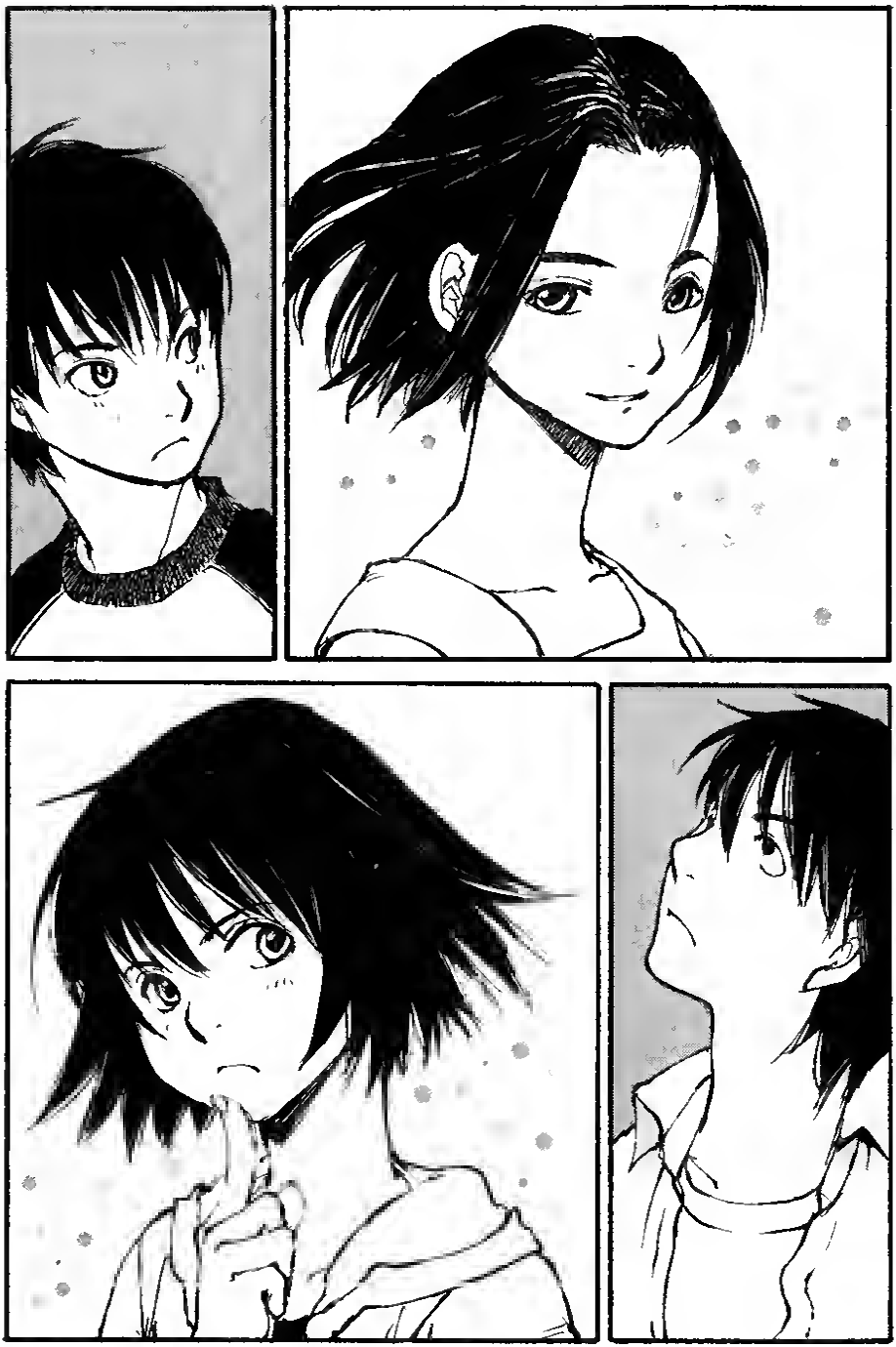
Are you okay to talk?
If you've got customers at the moment, I don't mind hanging up.
Hello? This is the Milk Hall, how can I help?
It... it's me, Izawa.
Wow, that little?
Yeah...
Well...
It seems he's terminal after all. They've given him three months to live.
No, it's okay. There's nobody here at the moment.
How's your father?

カラーン
SFX: DOOR CHIME
I see... I think that's probably the right thing to do.
Plus there's the workshop here, too, and I can't just leave that to my mother and sister, so I'll probably be here for a while.
Ah... a customer.
Okay...
I'll be going then.
Welcome!
...
カチ
SFX: CLICK

Thanks for walking me all the way home.
See you tomorrow-
Haru...
Yeah?
...
...
It's... uh...
It's no trouble at all. Don't worry about it...
But... it's likely I'll be working into the night a lot,
and waiting out until this late could be dangerous for you.

And besides, since you quit the convenience store, I don't get to see you as often now.
I enjoy waiting around!
If anything, I'm just satisfying myself, so don't mind me.
So... Uh...
...
Don't worry about me.
I can't really say anything to put you off, can I?
...I guess,
I'm sorry...
I'm a bit slow with these things, aren't I?

I'll make sure to keep it in mind from now on.
G'night, Rikuo!
It's okay, I get it. Just friends, okay?
I can't help but feel guilty
But for who?
For Haru, or for Shinako?
That, I still don't know.



Oi! Wait!
Ah, well...
Need something... hmm? I... guess you could say that...
What the hell are you playing at? You've been stalking me all day!
What is your name?
Huh?
What is it? Do you need something from me?

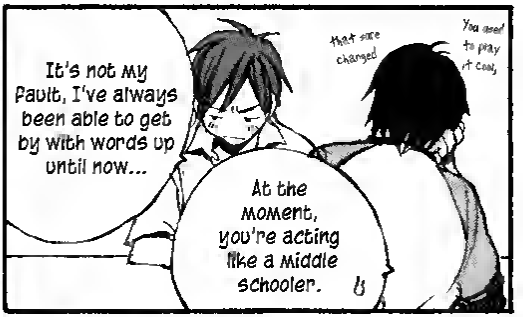
Who the hell are you anyway?
Oh, of course.
Sorry, I'm Takishita Katsumi from the oils section.
Huh?!
What's it to you?
You won't tell me?
...
What about you?
I'm graduating from high school this year and taking the entrance exam.
Don't even think about it! That'd be embarrassing!
Just tell me then!
Or, then again, I could ask someone from your class.
I'll have to go and ask the department head.
Oh, I see.
Not telling.
Well, that's okay.

SFX: TCH
...K-Kuzuhara.
Kuzuhara Misato.
Ahh, Misato-san. I see.
So? Now I've told you my name, what do you want?
Well... it's not just your name I wanted to know.
Come on, spit it out!
Go to hell!
Please go out with me!
SFX: SHOCK
ゴオオ
スタスタ
SFX: WALKING AWAY

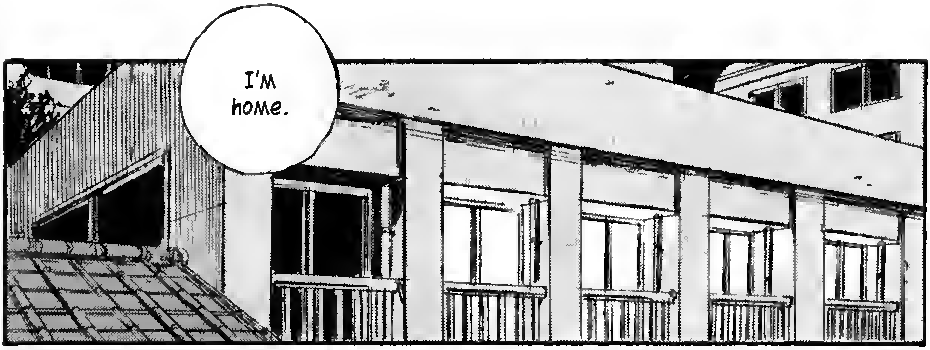
Ugh...
You'd have been super lucky if you didn't get rejected like that...
What did you expect?

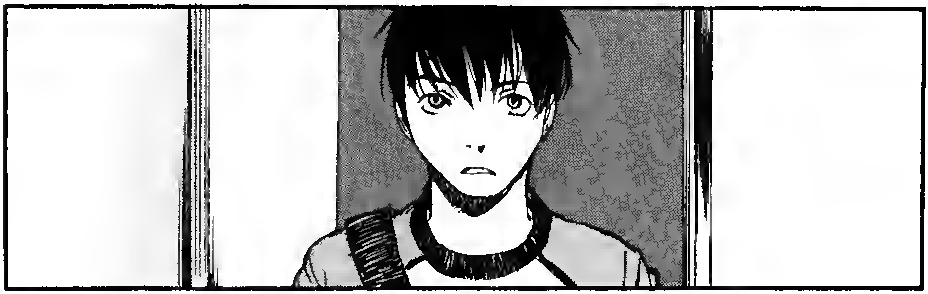
...Why do I have to sit here telling you this?
You've got to do these things in steps...
It was way too sudden.

you're basically asking them to let you always be by their side.


It's not my fault, I've always been able to get by with words up until now...
At the moment, you're acting like a middle schooler.
that one changed
You need to play it cool

Still...
I think I get it now. If you confess to someone,


I'm home.

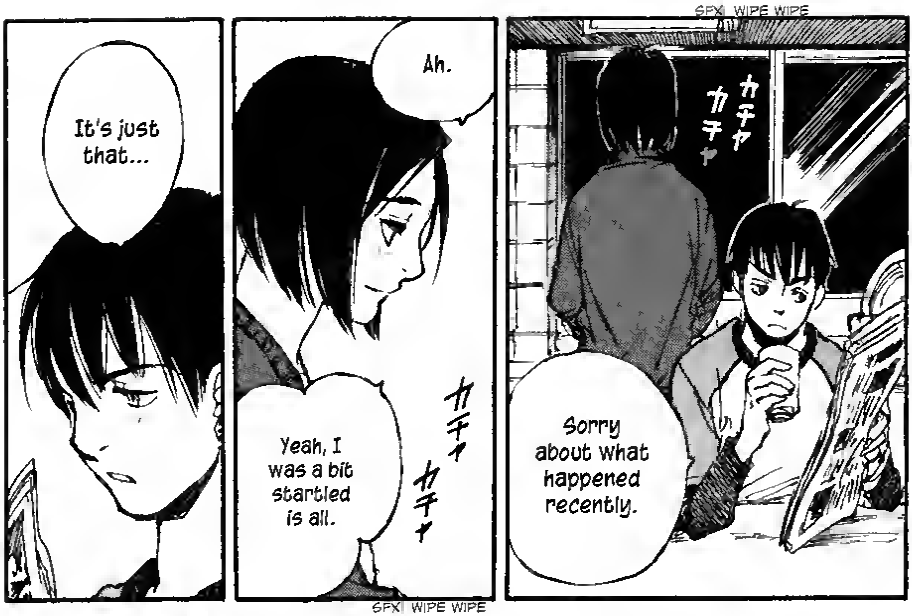


You're back early today.

Today we were just doing criticism.
Wh-
Ahh...

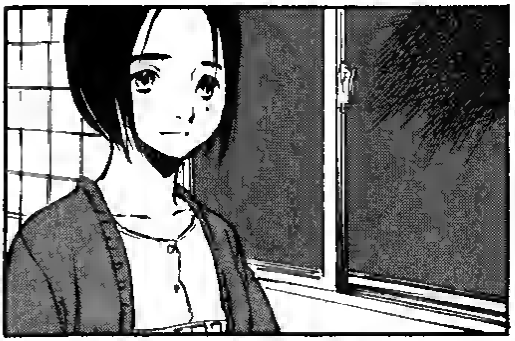
Ah, hello.

You're having dinner, too, right?
Yeah, sure.
SFX: RUNNING WATER
SFX: WIPE WIPE
Hey...


It's just that...
Ah.
Yeah, I was a bit startled is all.
カチャ
カチャ
SFX: WIPE WIPE
カチャ
カチャ
Sorry about what happened recently.

Rou-kun...
It's natural for me to be like this. I speak my mind, and sometimes I forget my manners.
Because of that, I feel bad about you looking after me all the time.
It's like... it's painful to watch you...
I can't really put it into words...
but, I mean... I'm the one who made things awkward between us, yet you still come around and cook for us, as if nothing happened...

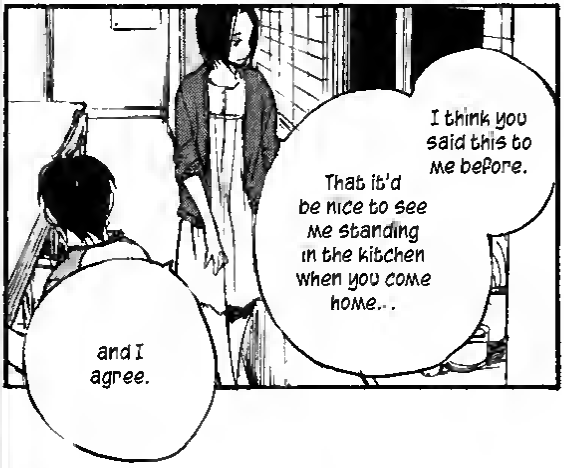
You haven't taken time to let your head clear or anything.
That's all I'm trying to say.



I'M grateful for that, of course,
and I'd hate for you to stop, but if you're pushing yourself, it's okay to take some space for a while.

I really like you.
And your dad, too, of course.
I don't want to lose that.

but... I like coming here. I like coming and preparing dinner.
Okay, maybe there is a bit of awkwardness between us,

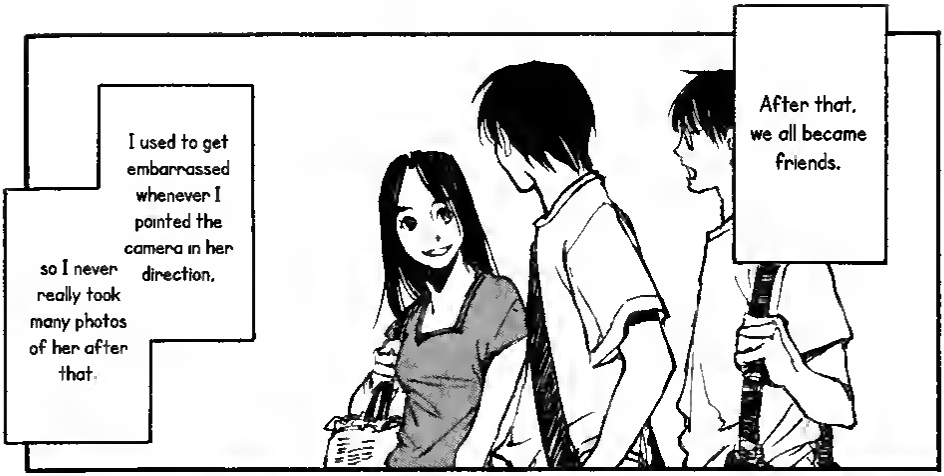

I think you said this to me before.
That it'd be nice to see me standing in the kitchen when you come home...
and I agree.

No matter what happens between us,
you'll always be welcome here.
What are you saying?
ドサ
SFX: THUD
Phew...

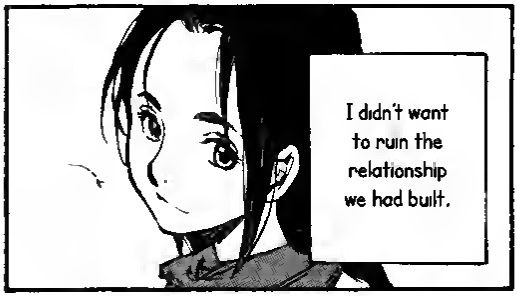
SFX RING RING
Hello?
Oh, it's you.
What do you want?
Huh?
Photos?
Hmm...
You do have pictures of us from university, right?
Well...
Kami-san said she'd like to see a few pictures of me from back then, but I don't have any
You were usually in charge of photos during events, weren't you?
Right, got it.
If you do find any send them to me
I'll have a look, at least.
I assume you don't want any that include previous girlfriends?
What do you think genius?

They always used to put me in charge of photography at events, but I was never really any good at taking photos of people.
The things I do for people.
Wow, there's hundreds of them...
I think the university photos were in this box...
Ah.
I tried joining the photography circle, but they never actually had any female members, so I didn't really show up much in the end...
There were always plenty of cute girls in our classes or seminars.
Wait a sec, they're all photos of girls...
Ahh, those were the days

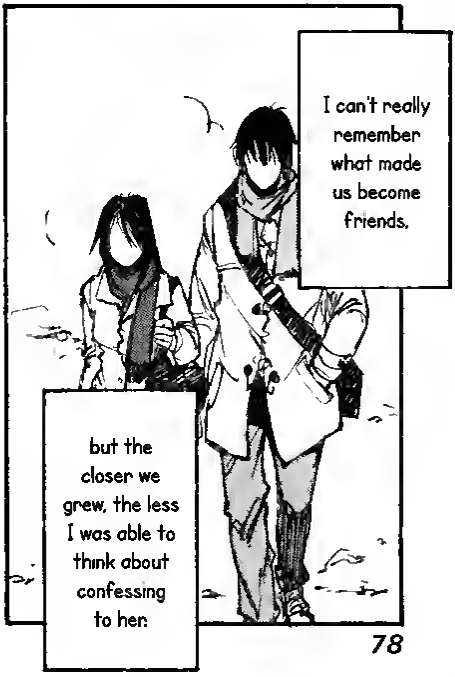
Wow, just how many pictures do I have?
I think I just used these events as an excuse to take way too many photos...
This is from when we were first-years. Akikawa was in our class.
I started liking her around this time, didn't I?
The only ones with Shinako are from around this time though.


I used to get embarrassed whenever I pointed the camera in her direction,
so I never really took many photos of her after that.
After that, we all became friends.

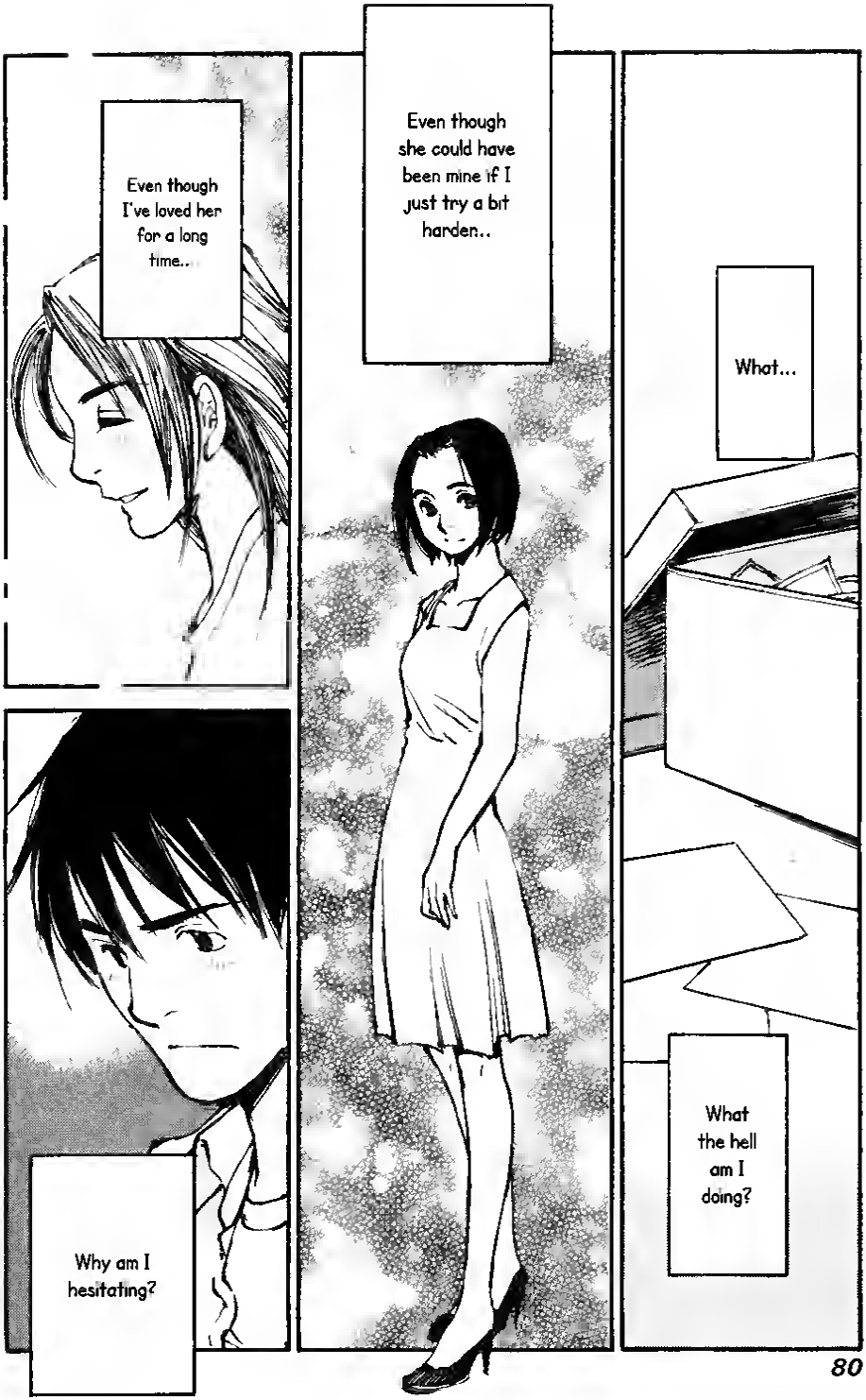
This is when I really fell for her.


I didn't want to ruin the relationship we had built.

And besides, I knew that Shinako only saw me as a friend.


I can't really remember what made us become friends,
but the closer we grew, the less I was able to think about confessing to her.

So long as we were friends it was okay.
even if it would never be anything more than that.
I thought that, if things stayed that way.
then at least I'd still be able to be near her.
Then on the day of our graduation ceremony, I tried plucking up the courage to confess.
but in the end, it was no good.
After that, I gave up.
But I still chose to be close to her.
There was no real reason behind it, it's just...
I wanted to be by her side.

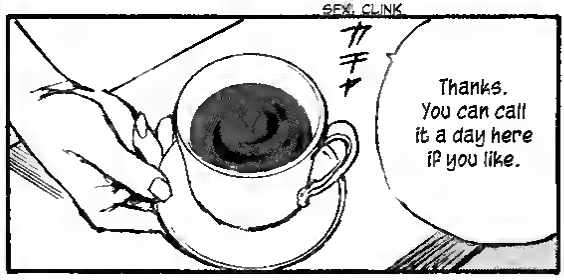

Even though I've loved her for a long time...
Even though she could have been mine if I just try a bit harden..
What...
What the hell am I doing?
Why am I hesitating?

This is a bad habit of mine.
I can't be honest about my feelings and grasp what's right before my eyes...
Instead of doing it, I just brood over it.
I only got this photography job because someone else gave me a push.
It was the same with job hunting.
I think, the important things are always the ones farthest away from me.
Well, I know Haru's presence plays a big part in it...

SFX: STACKING DISHES
はあっ
SFX: SIGH
はあっ
SFX: SIGH

Say...
Where do you suppose the border is between friends and something more than friends?

...
...


SFX: CLINK
Thanks. You can call it a day here if you like.

What's this all of a sudden?
Where is the line between being lovers and just being friends? I don't understand.
Hmm, well...
Things like that vary from person to person.
What about you? What do you think of Mister Bear?
W-we're just friends, really!
Did something happen between you and Rikuo-kun?

I don't think there was anything to begin with...
...But I knew that already.
It's nothing.
...No.
SFX: CLINK

Could I have a glass of sake?
I'm like a runner who started with a half lap handicap.
特製ミルクセーキ
Of course I was going to lose.
I know you're not a minor, but still!
No!

scene4 End

Christmas Carol
scene 1

I'm heading off, see you soon.
Okay, take care.

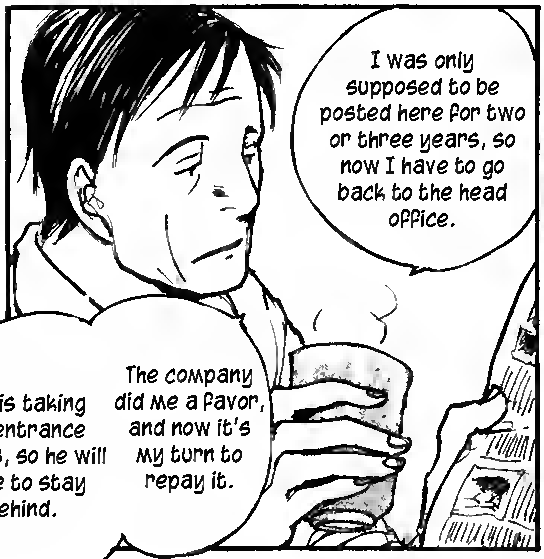
I noticed three things before Rikuo quit his job at the convenience store.
He started working at the photography studio, which meant he no longer had time to hang out with me.
I stopped seeing him on the way home from work too.
On top of that, I get the feeling he's been avoiding me.
What the hell.
I guess I really have lost the race, haven't I?

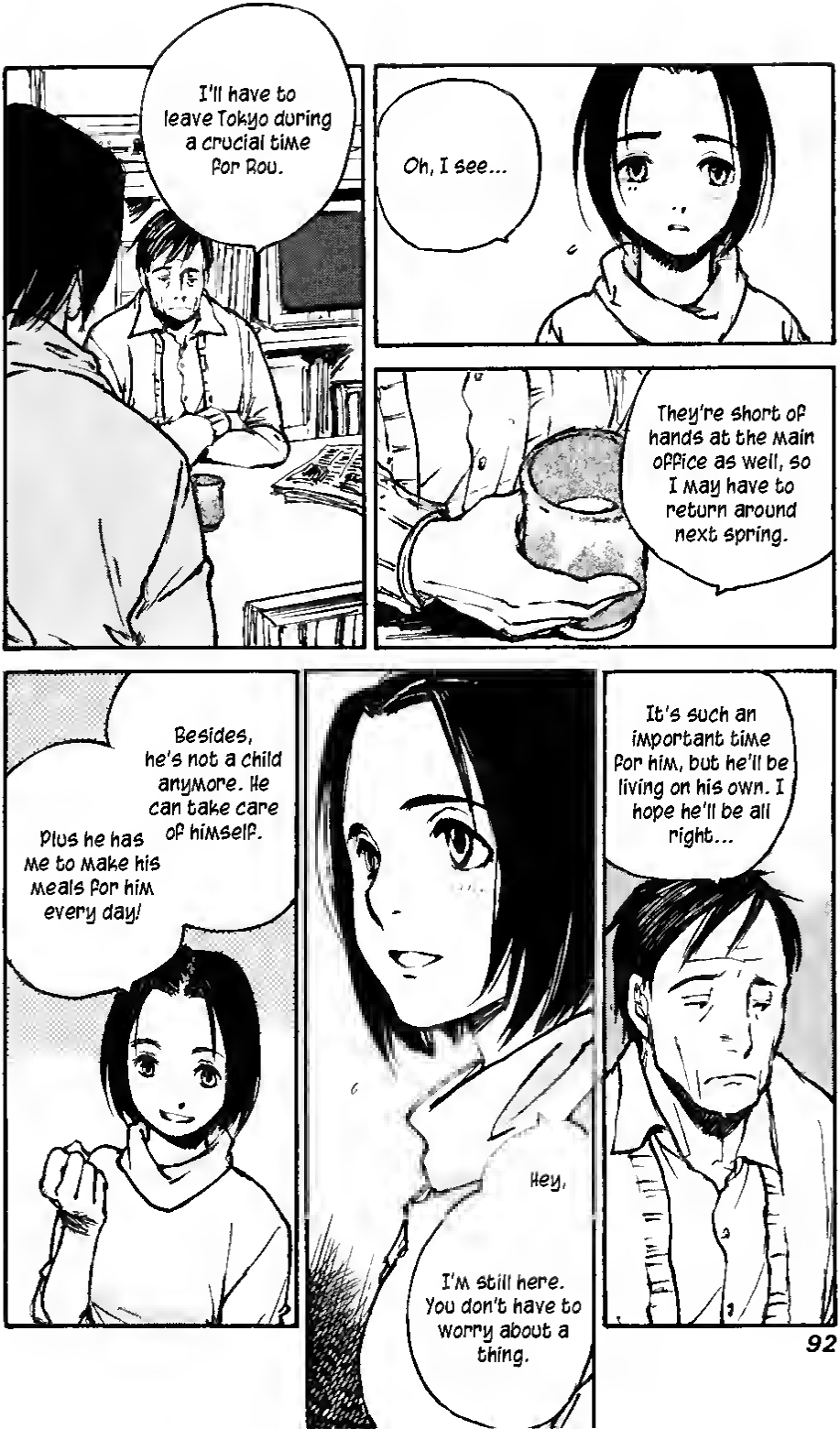
R
R
Hello, this is the Milk Hall.
カチャ
SFX: CLICK
Hey, it's me. Is now a good time?
Sure I guess. How are things there?
Well... I'm just in the process of sorting out the work side of things.
We're discussing whether or not we'll be able to keep the workshop open.

It may be...
that I'll need to come back again further down the line.
With just my mother and sister on hand, it doesn't seem as though we'll be able to carry on as before.
I think it's best if we close our doors for a while to restructure things
.....
Eh...?
Anyway, I better go.
...
Well, I still have school to see to, so I'll be coming back to Tokyo before long.

That's right, I'll have to return to Kanazawa.

Hm?


I was only supposed to be posted here for two or three years, so now I have to go back to the head office.
The company did me a favor, and now it's my turn to repay it.
Rou is taking his entrance exams, so he will have to stay behind.

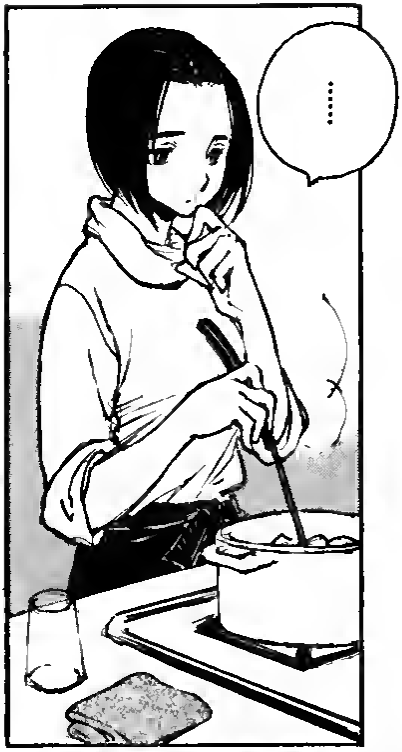

I'll have to leave Tokyo during a crucial time for Rou.
Oh, I see...
They're short of hands at the main office as well, so I may have to return around next spring.
Besides, he's not a child anymore. He can take care of himself.
Plus he has me to make his meals for him every day!
Hey,
I'm still here. You don't have to worry about a thing.
It's such an important time for him, but he'll be living on his own. I hope he'll be all right...

I'm really glad to hear that.
...
I don't want to take advantage of you any more than I already have.
I'm doing it because I like doing it, don't worry about me.
Rou-kun is like a brother to me.
I suppose, if you were still with us,
SFX: HA HA
you'd be doting on us even more as his wife.

Hm?
What were you two talking about?
KER-CHAK
Oh, Shinako.
I'm back.
Ah, welcome back.
Ahh, nothing special.
I was telling her about me returning to Kanazawa.
Oh, right.
You don't have to worry about me,
I'll manage one way or another.

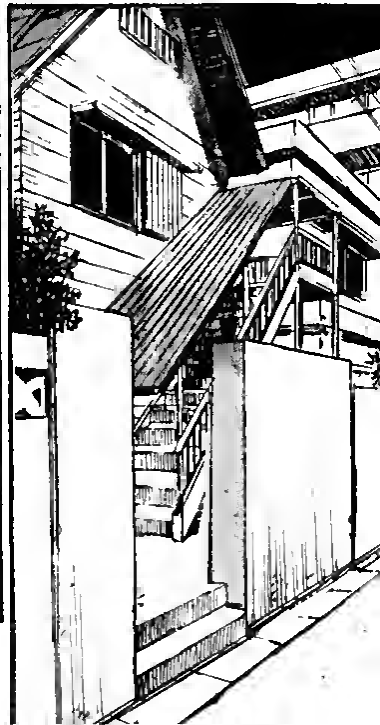
You take advantage of her too much.
Grow up.
Besides, I've got Shinako.
Ah, okay...
I'll warm this back up for you...
Oh, okay.
I didn't think you were coming today,
so I ate out.
Actually, I'm all right for now.
I've just had food with some friends from prep school.

Yeah, it's fine, I'm going to go shopping on the way.
Are you sure you don't want me to take you home?


……

What should I do…

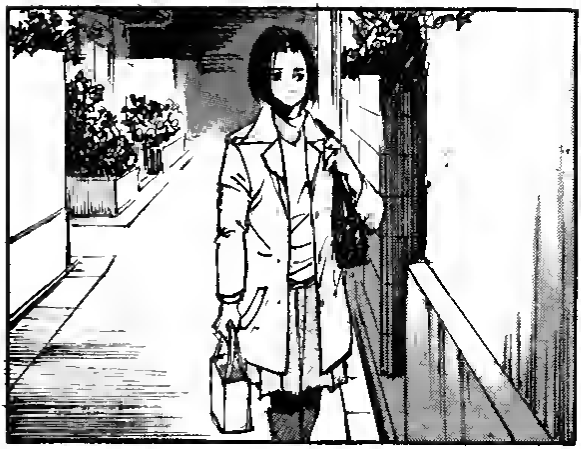
Doesn't seem like he's home yet.



Ah, it is you.
Miss?
What's that?
What should I do with it now...?
Well... I just left Rou-kun's house. I made dinner for them, and I thought I'd bring some over.
If you're looking for Rikuo, I don't think he's home yet.
Oh... hello, Nonaka-san.
I... I see.
He's been coming home late a lot lately.

Are you on your way home from work?
Yeah.
I've been taking the long route home a lot lately so that I end up going past here.
I'm not checking to see if he's around or anything, though.
It's just... y'know...
I got the impression that he didn't like me waiting near his workplace recently.
If you're waiting here for him, do you mind if I wait with you?
If I'm waiting with you, then I'll have a reason for standing around!

A-ah, no... it's okay...
It's getting late, we should head home.
Take care.
You too.
Oh? Well, okay then.
Well... see you later.
It's as if...



I shouldn't have come after all...

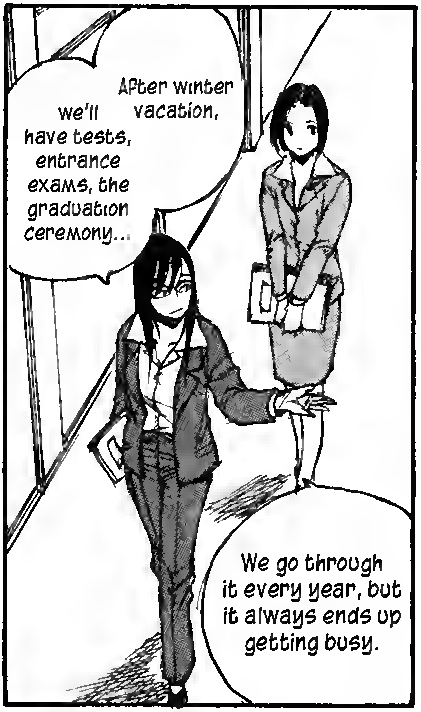
I've been taking the long route home a lot lately so that I end up going past here.

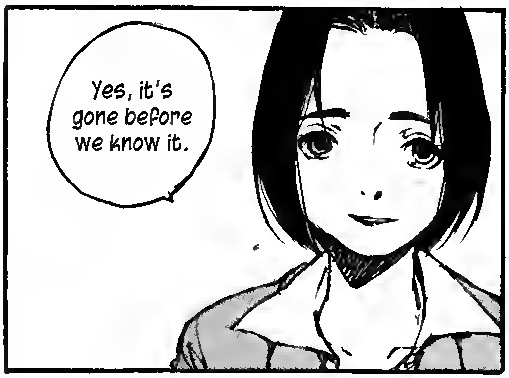
She didn't want to be with me.

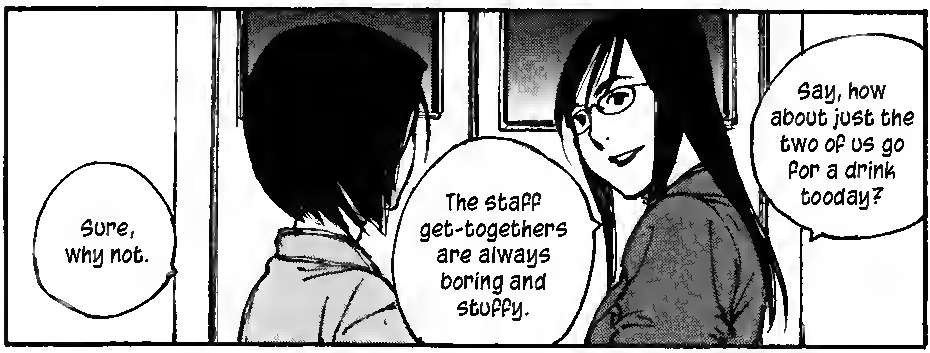
SFX: SIGH...
はぁ…
Maybe it's from Haru?
I wonder if she's been round here...?
A crow's feather...?

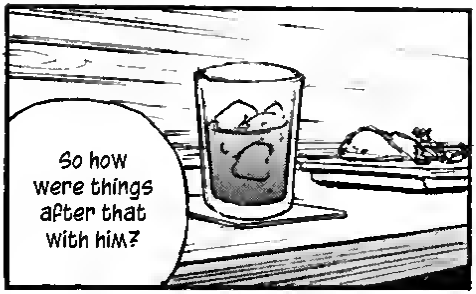
I see...
We haven't really been able to hang out like we used to, have we?
After she said that not too long ago,
I bet she's been steering clear of the photography studio.
I'll be sure to keep it in mind from now on.
SFX: THUD

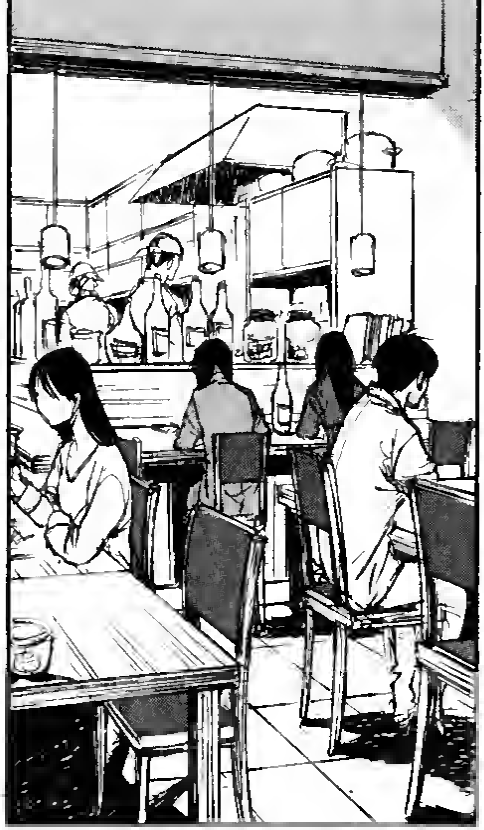
It's amazing how quickly a year can pass.


After winter vacation, we'll have tests, entrance exams, the graduation ceremony...
We go through it every year, but it always ends up getting busy.

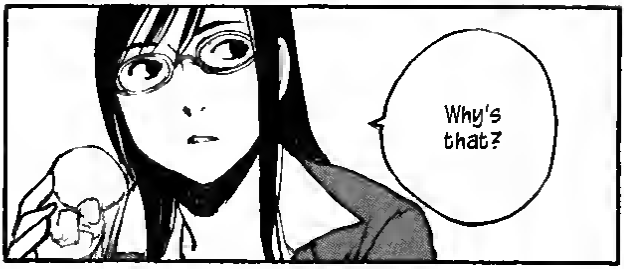

Yes, it's gone before we know it.


Say, how about just the two of us go for a drink tooday?
The staff get-togethers are always boring and stuffy.
Sure, why not.


So how were things after that with him?



Eh? Well...
No real change, I guess...


Why's that?

But... I don't know...
I think I need a little more time...

How do I put it?
I can't help but be in a rush to get things back to how they were before.

I need to calm down and think about things a bit more first...
I've been friends with him for a long time.
And besides...
There's another girl who likes him too.
She's a nice girl, too, I don't want to do anything to hurt her...
Besides?
So, what do you think will change by waiting even longer?
Is this a test for him?
.....
Ah, no! That's not it!
He may be waiting for you, however,
with such a nice girl around, he won't wait forever.

Love is a case of survival of the fittest. It's like a game of musical chairs.
If you pause to gather your wits, he'll get snapped up from beneath you and you'll regret it later.
.....
Understood? Love is a battle!
You're lenient and naive...
...and lacking in "girl power", you know.
Is-
is it really that bad?

Christmas Carol
scene2

Sing Yesterday for Me
by Toume Kei
A Village Idiot Scanlation

Raws: VISCANS
Translator. Taylor
Proofreader: Zeroaintdead
Cleaner: freijie
Typesetter: lucy97

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Yup, so then I suggested that we should be friends!
And I said I wasn't interested in that, either.
I have no intention of going out with you.
I said that already.
What's wrong with being friends?
Why?
Normally, I wouldn't mind,
but in your case, friendship is obviously a scheme to get something else, and that's gross.
Isn't that normal, though?
So you won't even give me a chance?
To be frank, I can't stand your type.

Maybe she's going out with somebody.
She would have said so.
That's cold.
It's no good, I guess.
What's her type, anyway?
You've got to persevere and keep chipping away at people until they let their guard down.
Well, it's still too early to give up.
It sounds like you know an awful lot about this, Hayakawa-kun.
A jock... who gives off a macho feeling.
The exact opposite of you, probably?
Ugh... No way I can do that.

はあ

SFX: SIGH

I haven't seen Rikuo in almost a month.

What's up?
You seem kind of down lately...

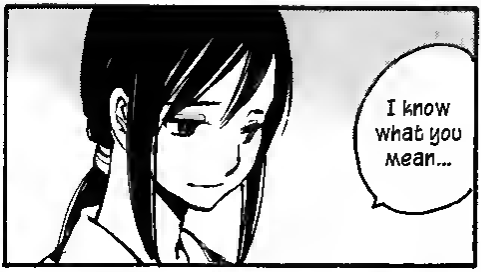
...

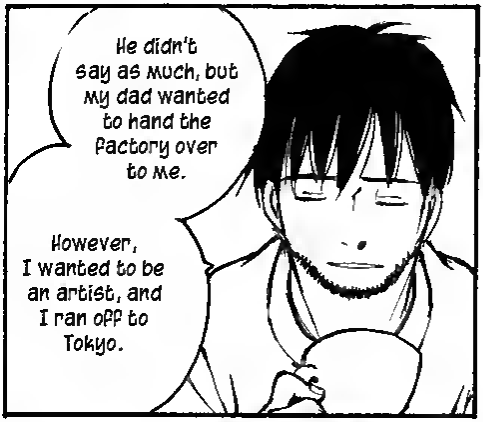
He's... different from usual.
Is he busy with work?
He is, but it also feels like he's avoiding me.
He must be stressed out?
カラーン
SFX: KA-CHAK
Izawa-kun.
Long time no see.

I'll put it on.
Sit, sit. You must be tired.
I got into Tokyo this morning. I stopped by the college, put an appearance in at the prep school, and here I am.
Been a while, Haru-chan.
Hello~
Gimme a coffee.
Umm... Let's see, would you please get some milk and sugar, stuff like that?
Hm?
Kyoko-san, I'm going out to the store for a bit.
カラーン
準備中
SFX: CLACK
SIGN: SETTING UP
SFX: CLICK

How's everything at home?
Still, the workers need to work. He can't rest for that long.
Well... It was kind of tough with my dad.
...
That's rough.
But I think things have calmed down a bit at the factory.
It hit me real hard this time. How little I can do for my parents...
How much I've left for them to deal with at home.

Even when it comes to this, he still won't tell me to come back...
Because he wanted to paint when he was young, too. And he wasn't able to.


I know what you mean...

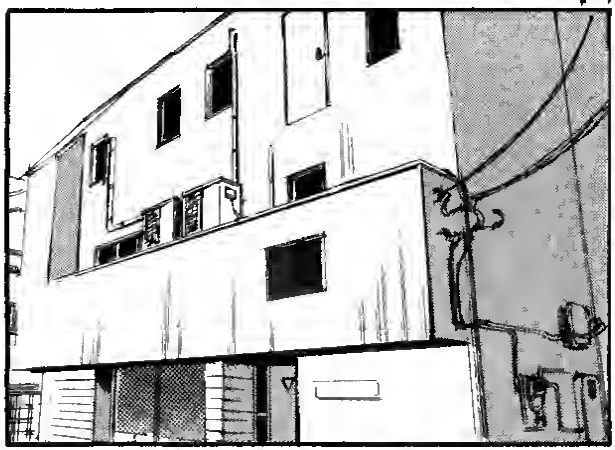

He didn't say as much, but my dad wanted to hand the factory over to me.
However, I wanted to be an artist, and I ran off to Tokyo.

I'm returning a favor.
Huh?

If there's anything I can do, tell me.

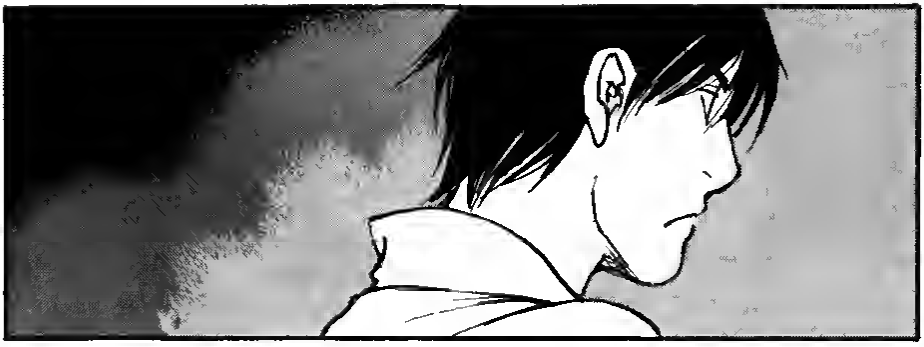
But... I can't go on being wishy-washy.
I need to be the good son now.

I'm done shopping, but
it's still a little too early to go back.



...

I ended up here, but...
If Rikuo sees me, he'll be mad...
Okay, okay, just a peek.
They sure look busy...



He looks...
thinner.
Is he eating properly?

...What am I doing...?

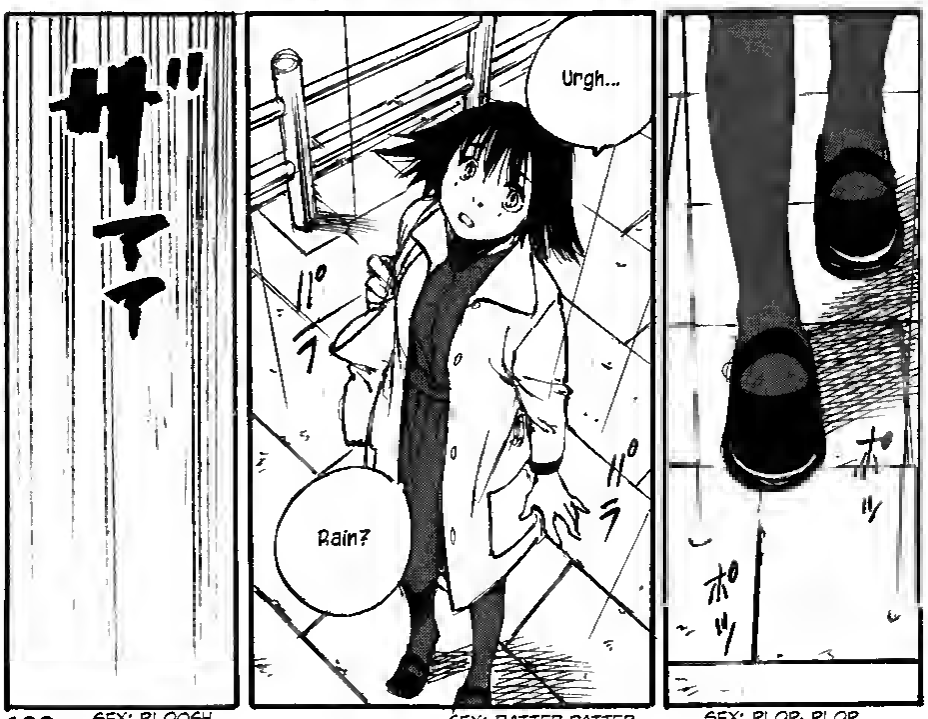
but it feels like I haven't seen him in years.
It's only been a month,

If work is no good, then maybe his place...
Instead of doing this, I ought to make some food and come up with some excuse to bring it to him.
If I went so far as to intrude into his personal life, he might turn me away for real.
I can't do that, either.
I never had a chance, right from the start.
For me, "meeting up with him at work" feels like just the right amount of distance.

If he pushes me away, that'll be it.
What favor?
That's what I'm afraid of.

My mom left me this place and I didn't know what to do.
Our third year of college, in the spring.
You don't remember?
Sorry.
But, I was thinking about maybe having someone else take over.
and I couldn't bear to sell it.
I didn't think I'd be able to keep it going.
I tried, using what I remembered from helping my mom.
Even though we were still closed,
to make you a coffee.
And then, one day, you dropped by and asked me

カチャ…
You drank that coffee straight down,
and told me it was delicious, just like my mom used to make.
I was able to keep this cafe open because you said that to me.
You didn't come by much after that, but
you'd still order coffee for delivery, and that helped out.
I only said that because it was true, though...
I'm really grateful...



SFX: PLOOSH

SFX: PATTER PATTER

SFX: PLOP, PLOP

Let's go!
This is just great...
Should I make a run for the station...?
Haru-chan?
What are you doing out here?
Huh?

Ah!
You're from the prep school.
Uhhhm...
I didn't even know your name.
Amamiya.
Right, thanks.
Were you out shopping too, Amamiya-san?
Ah...yeah, but, I don't know your last name either, Haru-chan.
It's Nonaka. Nonaka Haru.
Ohh, I see.
Must be Rikuo's place.
Oh no, there's a photo studio this way.
I went over to see about some promotional photos.

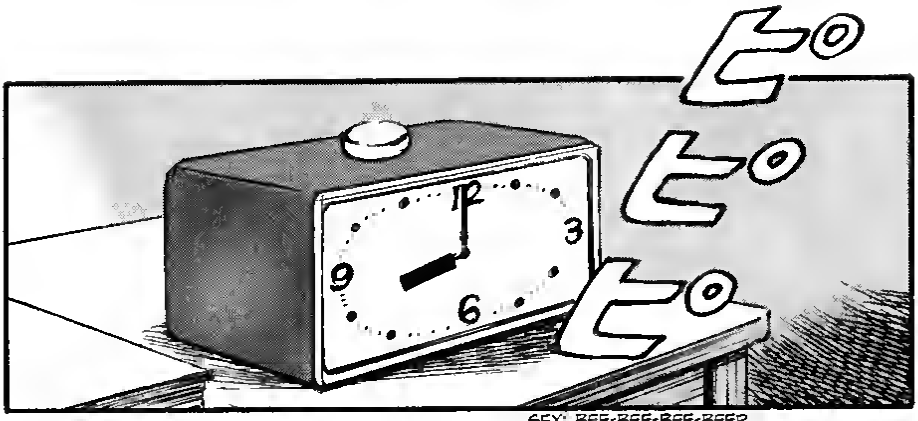
You can hold on to that umbrella.
Huh? That's all right, the station's nearby.
Thank you very much. Sorry to take you out of your way.
No problem at all.
Then,
you'll have to come make another delivery.
Oh!
Hey...!
...

scene2 End

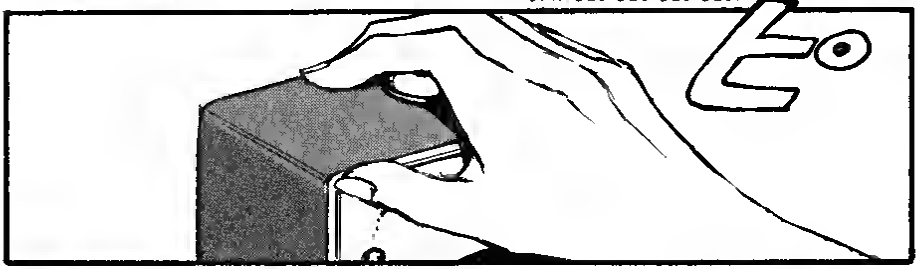
Raws: VISCANS
Translator: Taylor
Proofreader: Zeroaintdead
Cleaner: freijie
Typesetter: Lucy97

Christmas Carol
scene3

Sing Yesterday for Me
by Toume Kei
A Village Idiot Scanlation



SFX: BEE-BEE-BEE-BEEP



SFX: CLICK

SFX: SKRITCH SKRITCH

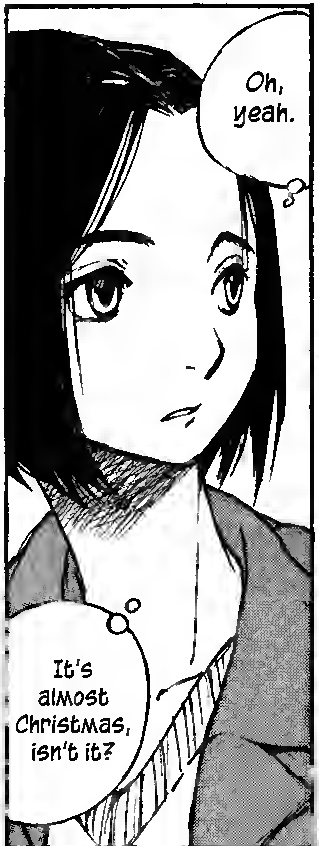
Huh?
What are you doing here, Shinako?
Hey,
good morning, Rou-kun.
Oh, right.
Didn't I tell you? Your dad left me a key.
Dad went back to Kanazawa.
Huh?
Won't you be late for school?
It's already past eight.

It's winter break.
Oh, yeah...
This is bad, I'm still half asleep. I'm gonna go wash my face.
SFX: SPLASH SPLASH
SFX: GRIN
This is...
...
We haven't been alone together in a while.
Don't you make any trouble for Shinako-chan.

Ta-da!
With exams coming up, she wants to take extra-good care of me.
People are all really nice around this time, aren't they?
You have a lunchbox, too?
...Wait... what?
My mom made this for me.
I told her I could do it myself, but she insisted.
I bet it's what that big-sister character of yours is thinking, too.
What's your problem? Why do you have to rain on my parade?

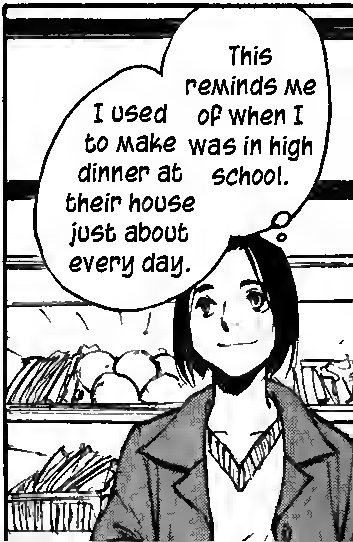
Hey, you guys. Can we sit here?
Oh, Ashida-san.
Go ahead.
Yuck, two guys with homemade lunchboxes... talk about awkward.
Why?!
I know, right?
Oh, you two haven't met.
This is Yusa-chan from sculpture.
Oh, hey.
Um... my name is Takishita.
Can I ask you a random question?
Eh, what is it?
Sculpture?

Weren't you being way too obvious?
Really?
I didn't think she caught on, though.
Well, I, um...
I have this friend... who fell head-over-heels for this girl in the sculpture department.
...
And, dude, it worked. I got some awesome insider info.
She was going out with a guy in the design department, and they broke up last year.
But you don't know who.
Could it be that she still has feelings for this guy?
I bet that's it.
Well, that's possible.
Women can never forget their old lovers.
What are you two amateurs talking about?
That's not true!
Waugh! Ashida-san!

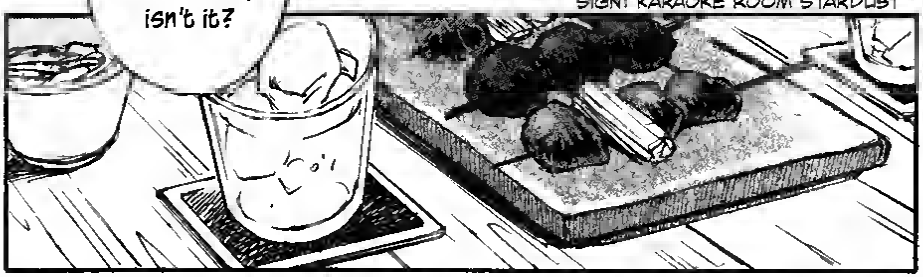

Oh, yeah.
It's almost Christmas, isn't it?

What should I make tonight...
I have to think about tomorrow's lunch, too.

X'mas


This reminds me of when I was in high school.
I used to make dinner at their house just about every day.

SIGN: KARAOKE ROOM STARDUST



Up 'til last year, I used to buy presents for my girlfriend and stuff,
but this year we decided we should skip it and save our money

Am I invited?
You don't have plans anyway, do you?
Anyway, we're staying afloat, but we don't really have the time to slow down and savor things.
Kami-san was saying how we should invite some friends over and have a quiet little house party.
Oh, and Kami-san also said
to bring Shinako with you.

That's right, I have to give this umbrella back.
Ah...
I'll stop by the prep school before work tomorrow.
What was his name again...?
Wait...

Urgh... I'm nervous for some reason.
It's been a while...
R
R
R
R
R
R
カチ
カチ
SFX: CLICK CLACK
Yes, hello?
チャッ
Phone, phone, phone.
R
R
R
SFX: CLICK

Hey,
Uozumi-kun...
It's been a while...
Oh no, I just got home.
I was over at Rou-kun's place...
Uhh... sorry, were you in the middle of something?
SFX: SNAP
Oh... all right.
UM, anyway... I'm calling because Fukuda, he...
Huh...?
On Christmas?

Rikuo's back.
I should stop doing things like this.
It's pointless... and kind of gross.
I'm going home...
...
I thought I declared war from the beginning... even though I knew I wouldn't win.
When did I turn into such a little coward?
God-damn...

Oh...
This is a rare chance, but I probably won't be able to go.
I'm sorry...
Oh... do you have other plans?
Not really, but...
Rou-kun's dad went back to Kanazawa for work, and Rou-kun is getting ready for his exams. It's a stressful time, and I want to be there for him, to cook for him, and that kind of thing.
Rou-kun feels like a part of me.
It wouldn't be right to go off and have fun all by myself.
...I see...
I understand. I'll tell Fukuda, too.

I... never go back...
My family and I aren't really close.
Hmm?
Yeah... It sounds like my brother goes back every year, though.
What about New Year's? Are you going back home?
I'm not sure... I'll see how Rou-kun is doing... we might go back together. How about you?
美術学

Oh, Haru-chan, what's up?
Um... er... Is the teacher with the glasses here?
Hellooo.
Hm? You mean Amamiya?
Oh... Yes, that's right.
You need him for some-thing?
He went out to lunch.
Would you give this to him for me?
It's okay if he's not around.
Um... no, I just borrowed his umbrella, so I brought it back.

Ohh.
Good Mooorning.
Ah, there she is.
You have a visitor, Haru-chan.
Is that right?
I was just at the school. I left your umbrella there.

Not really...
I'll be working here like any normal day.
Well, it's not like I came for the umbrella.
I wanted to ask whether or not you had plans for Christmas.
He wants to invite you to a Christmas party.
You might get busy here, but we'll be there until pretty late, so you can come by after you close up.
If you're interested, please come.
All the teachers get together and decorate the cafeteria every year.
You two are always helping us out, so I wanted to invite you.

What do you think?
Haru-chan, the bagel sandwich you invented was delicious.
See you.
SFX: SHUT
He mostly just wanted to invite you, I'm sure.
Don't you get it? I'm only invited for appearances' sake.
You should go, Haru-chan.
Yeah, right.
Haha!

scene3 End

Sing Yesterday for Me
by Toume Kei
A Village Idiot Scanlation

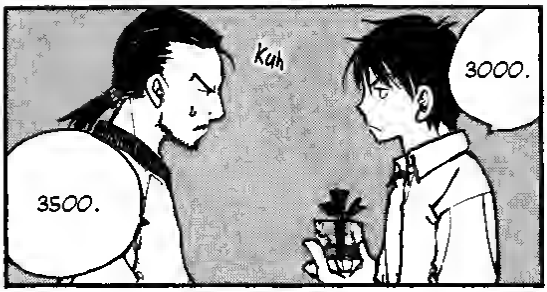
Christmas Carol
scene4

Raws: VISCANS
Translator: Taylor
Proofreader: Zeroaintdead
Cleaner: freijie
Typesetter: Lucy97

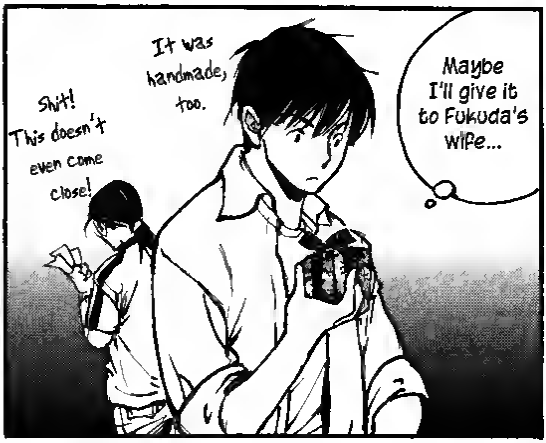
Christmas, huh?
I kinda ignored it every year, but then again, my family never did much of anything when I was a kid.

Even when I had a girlfriend, I didn't do anything special.
And not just Christmas, I tend to let birthdays slip by, too.

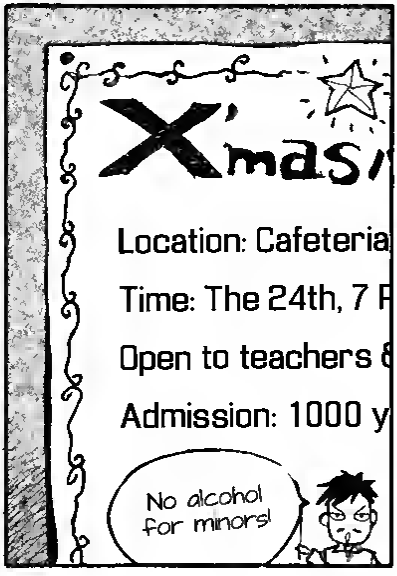
Yes?
Do you have a girlfriend?
Hmm
Maybe that's why she dumped me?
Hey, Uozumi.
Huh?
N-No... I don't.
Well anyway, wanna buy this off me?
Some girly thing. Accessories. It's useless to me now.
I was going to give it to my girlfriend for Christmas, but...
Whaa? What is it?
EQUAL
Pff
Yup.
She dumped me.
Yester-day.
You broke up?
You must at least have a girl you like.
Give yourself a chance.
Ahh, I'm such a good senpai.


Kuh
3000.
3500.

Then, give it to any girl.
I don't have anyone like that.
I'll cut you a deal, less than half price, 5000 yen.


Maybe I'll give it to Fukuda's wife...
It was handmade, too.
Shit! This doesn't even come close!

Ahh, they're doing it this year, too.
I didn't go last year. I thought maybe it wasn't a good time to be playing around.
But, this time I might go, for a change of pace.


X'mas
Location: Cafeteria
Time: The 24th, 7 P
Open to teachers &
Admission: 1000 y
No alcohol for minors!

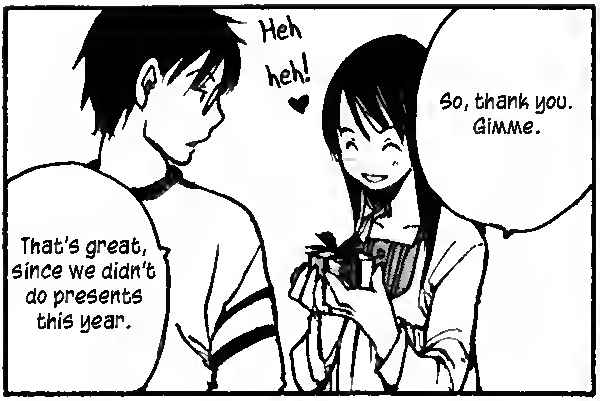
A chance
I'm spending Christmas with Shinako, just the two of us.
We both have our priorities straight, huh?
I wonder if Kuzuhara-san's going?
How should I know? I'm gonna pass.
Whaa, come! It'll be sad if I go by myself.
Why are you being gross all of a sudden?
Now's not the time to be thinking about that stuff.
I also need a change of pace sometimes, though.
Christmas?
We can exchange presents and all, just like old times.
C'mon, let's do it, you and me.

...
I'll look for something during my lunch break, so you get something too, Shinako.
Anything's fine, even something really small.
We don't need to go through that much trouble.
Huh?
I was asking
Whether or not you've made any plans with Rikuo-kun for Christmas?

Do you have plans?
Not really...
It's almost the end of the year, so I thought I'd get the accounts straightened out.
No, nothing.
Every year he just says "I'm not a Christian" and lets it go by.
I'm thinking of closing the café early this Christmas.
Anyway, we'll close early, so do as you like...
Whether you plan to go to the prep school's party,
or you decide to ask Rikuo-kun out.
You don't have to do that on Christmas though, do you?
That's true, but it sounded like a good opportunity to take my time and get it done.
Whaa...
I'd rather be working, though...

December 24
Hello.
Come in, come in.
Hey, you made it.
Oh, here's some wine and snacks.
Oh, well. We'll have a good time, just the three of us.
Shinako couldn't come.
Aw, really?

Is it something weird? A manager's special, or...?
Well, who knows, but at least it's new, so it should be fine.
Oh?
I'll open this.
Fukuda, this is for the little lady.
What is this?
A senpai at work forced it on me. He said it's some kind of accessory.
There's no particular meaning, so I thought it'd be okay, but you guys really don't want it?
But it's not weird to give it to my wife?
No, that would be weird.
Why don't you give it to Shinako?
Whoa.
I don't mind.


Heh heh!
So, thank you. Gimme.
That's great, since we didn't do presents this year.

I mean, if it was my boyfriend giving me this kind of thing, I'd be angry.
but like Uozumi-kun says, coming from a friend with no intentions attached, there's no problem.

Anyway, why couldn't Shinako come?
The child of a family friend is taking exams soon and she's taking care of him.

Ohh.
Wow, what a cute necklace.
I guess my senpai has good taste.

Welcome back. You're early today.
I'm back!
We finished up quickly.
There's a party at school tonight, too.
You're not going?
Even if I went, they wouldn't let us drink.
I got us some wine— it's cheap, though.
Whaa...
You're underage!
没收!
What are you saying? You can't drink alcohol at home, either.

SFX: CONFISCATED

Good work today.
I want to keep working...
Shouldn't you be off to the school party?
はぁ…
SFX: SIGH
What are you sighing about?

How about calling his apartment?
I told you, I can't.
Or you could look for Rikuo-kun?
Here's the phone.
Don't just stand here grumbling to yourself. Give it a try.
This isn't like you, Haru-chan.
You know his number, don't you?
...

SFX: BEEP BEEP
SFX: RING RING RING
He must still be at work. Figures.
SFX: CLICK
So how about taking a look over there?
No, this is enough already.

And if I go, he'll just make a face like, ugh.
He probably doesn't want his coworkers to see me there, either.
If he's at work, he wouldn't go out with me anyway.
Honestly, I don't want to call his apartment or anything.
I want to keep some distance. I don't want to come off as annoying.
Trying way too hard?
...
Aren't you...
Aren't you going to end up thinking yourself into a corner?
but you're just over-thinking all these things by yourself, and keeping it all bottled up...
You don't want to break whatever you two have,

...

Don't worry so much, just go for it.
Don't be scared. Go to him and see what happens.

The lights are off.
Looks like nobody's there.

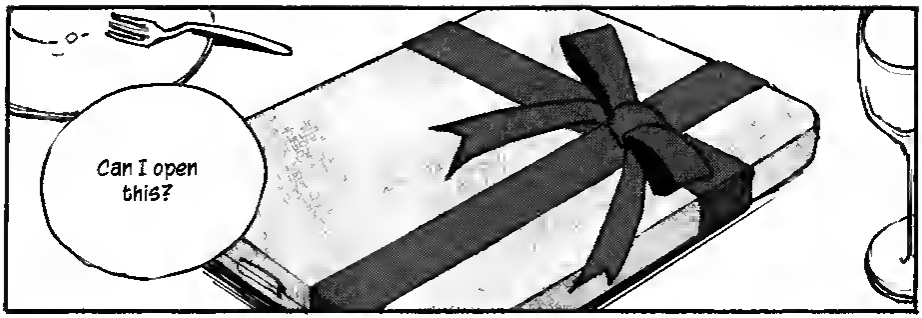
And that if I don't see him, I get more and more anxious...

And the more anxious I am, the more negative I become.

I know what I was scared of...

I was scared because I haven't seen him...

And now I have a bad feeling about all this.


Can I open this?

Oh.
This art book!

I hope you like it.
You open mine, too.

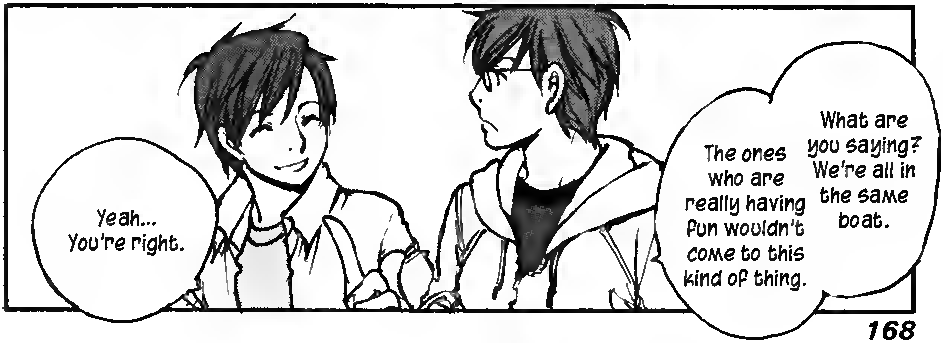
What I really want is for you to pass your exams,
but I ended up thinking about other stuff.
I'll... do my best.
I remember you said you liked it,
so I asked the art teacher at our school to help me find it.
Thanks. I always wanted a copy.
Wow!
Now, what could Rou-kun's present be?
A music box.

SFX: CRINKLE CRACKLE

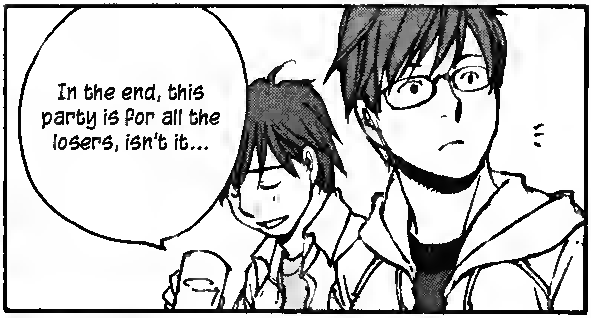
This is wonderful. Thank you.
The song is "Minuet," isn't it?
I found it at an antique shop near my school.
I'm glad you like it.
It's old but it has a pretty sound.
...
This is non-alcoholic, though.
Cheers.
SFX: CLINK

Christmas Carol
scene5

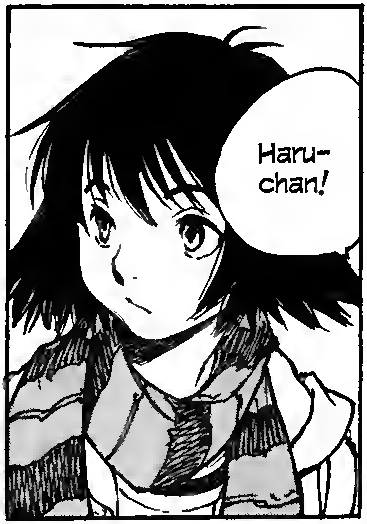
Raws: VISCANS | Translator: Taylor | Proofreader: Zeroaintdead | Cleaner: freijie | Typesetter: Lucy97


Yeah... You're right.
The ones who are really having fun wouldn't come to this kind of thing.
What are you saying? We're all in the same boat.

No, no, of course not.


In the end, this party is for all the losers, isn't it...

Oh, Amamiya-san.
You came.
We closed up shop early, but Kyoko-san had something else to do...

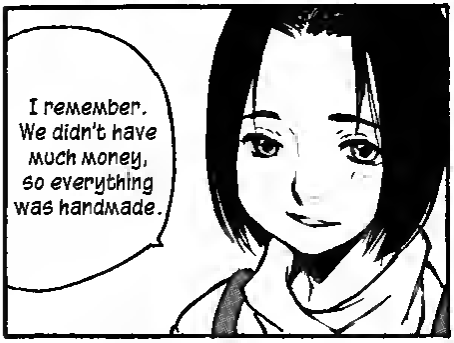

Haru-chan!

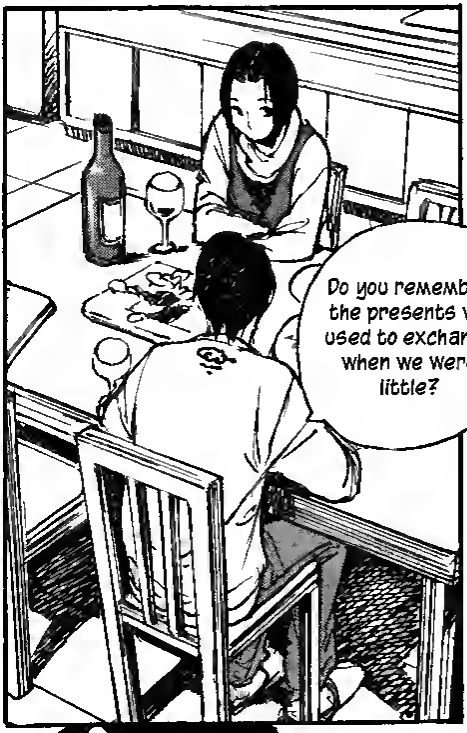
Exam season's coming right up after this, isn't it? Must be rough.
Exactly. That's why we wanted to give everybody a change of scenery beforehand.
I see... oh well, Izawa-san isn't here, either.
Can I get you a drink?
Umm... how about a beer.
Oh, um... probably in the office...
Ama-Miya, d'you know where the list is? For the art supplies we ordered last month?
You'd better not go home right away.
Sorry, I have to deal with this, but I'll be right back.
Don't worry about me. I'll go mingle.

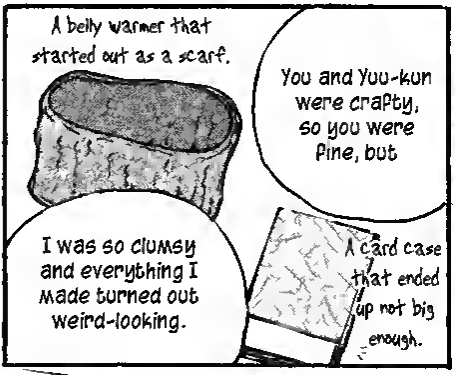
I don't know anyone else here.
I wonder if Rou-kun's around?
Still...
Haha...
If you're looking for Hayakawa-kun, he didn't come.
You're Hayakawa-kun's friend, aren't you? You're over here once in a while.
I'm Takishita.
Ah... well, I don't know if you can call us friends, more like acquaint-ances...
Huh?

So he didn't come...
It sounds like he's spending the night with that older sister character of his.
Oh, yeah?
That's what he said.
So that means
Shinako-sensei and Rikuo-kun aren't together.
I see, I see...
Huh...? Then just what is that guy up to?
Hey, wait, did I maybe say something I shouldn't have?

No, no.
I did come because he invited me, but no.
Hmm... Then, are you Amamiya-sensei's girlfriend?
No! Not at all!
Oh, thank goodness. I'm not good at reading the mood.
A cute girl like you, alone on Christmas Eve?
Oh my, thank you♡
Honestly, there's someone I wanted to spend it with, but I couldn't get a hold of him.
And I was thinking, maybe I should just hole up at home by myself.
I know, right? I was thinking, I should just stay in the studio and paint.

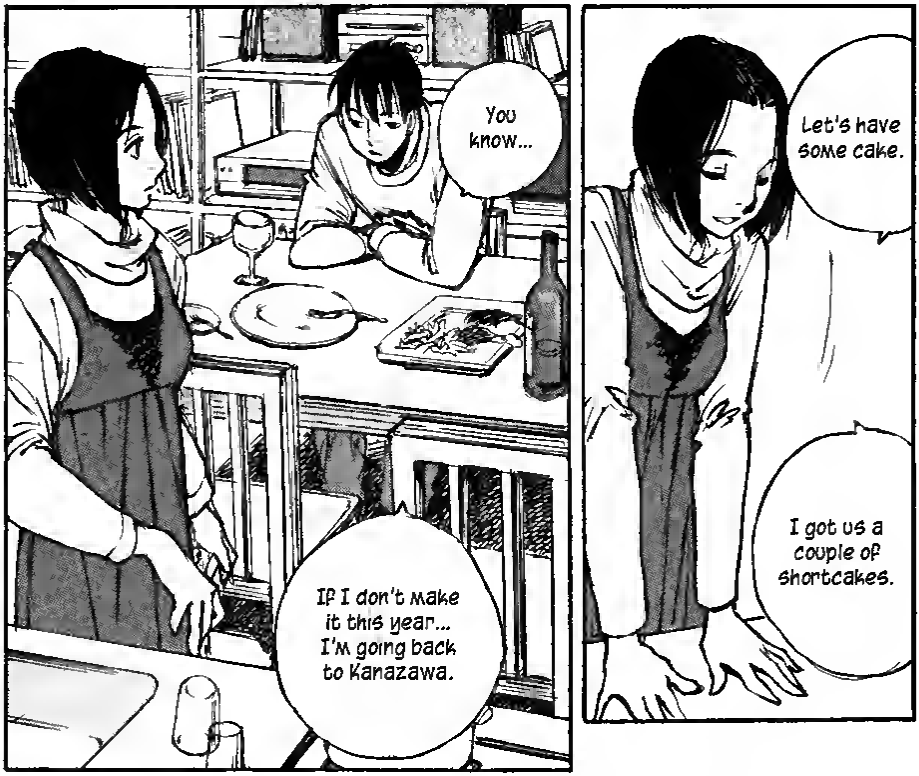

I remember. We didn't have much money, so everything was handmade.


Do you remember the presents we used to exchange when we were little?


A belly warmer that started out as a scarf.
You and Yuu-kun were crafty, so you were fine, but
I was so clumsy and everything I made turned out weird-looking.
A card case that ended up not big enough.

and you drew me a portrait.
Yuu-kun made me a kaleidoscope once,
I still have everything.

Right...
...
After my brother died, I couldn't bring myself to.
Agh... get rid of those.
I kept stuff too, like the stuffed animals of indeterminate species.
Two of 'em.


You know...
If I don't make it this year... I'm going back to Kanazawa.
Let's have some cake.
I got us a couple of shortcakes.

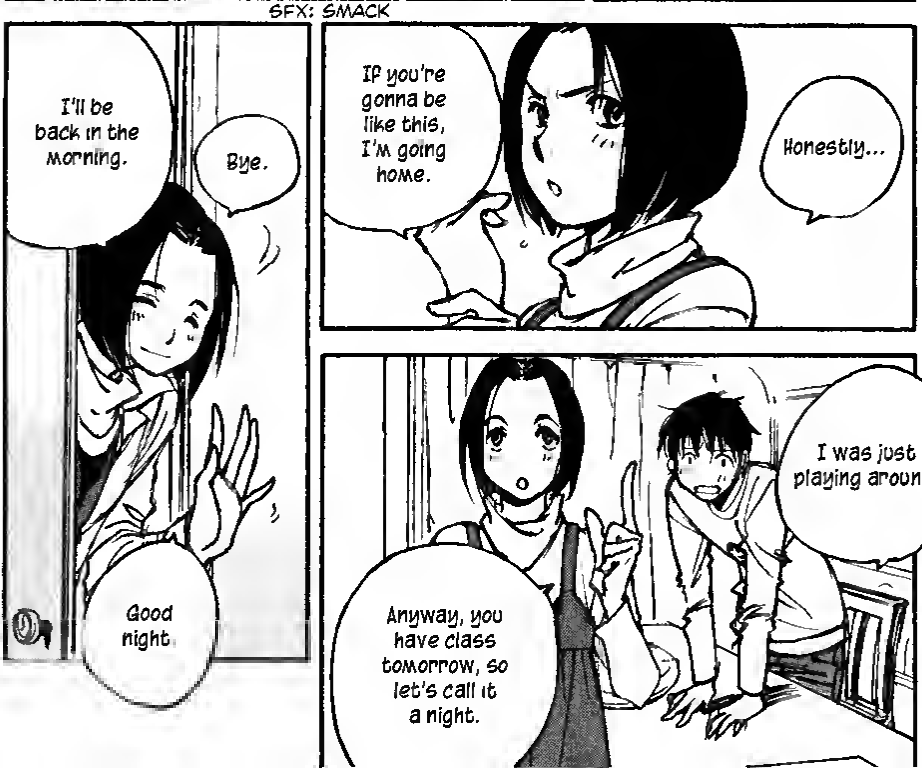
and my classes aren't cheap.
Apartments are expensive in the city,
...
This is company housing, right? And Dad's already gone back,
so I can't stay here much longer.
Yeah...
There are prep schools for the arts in Kanazawa too,
and I can still take exams for colleges in Tokyo.
I guess you wouldn't be able to find a place with cheaper rent than this.
...

Yeah, probably. But I wanted to tell you, Shinako.
In any case, I don't plan to be a burden on you for much longer, so don't worry.
Oh, I haven't talked to my dad about any of this yet, so keep it quiet.
If I make it into college, I plan to work part-time, and make ends meet somehow.
Your father would be against it.
I don't think of you as a burden.
Now I'm mad.
I'm just doing things that I wanted to do,
so don't you worry about that.

I mean, Rou-kun, you—
It's been a while since I've seen you get angry.
Haha.

Wouldn't you be able to breathe easier once I'm gone?
What's the big deal, anyway?
Rou-kun.
Let go of me.
No.
Of...
Of course not.

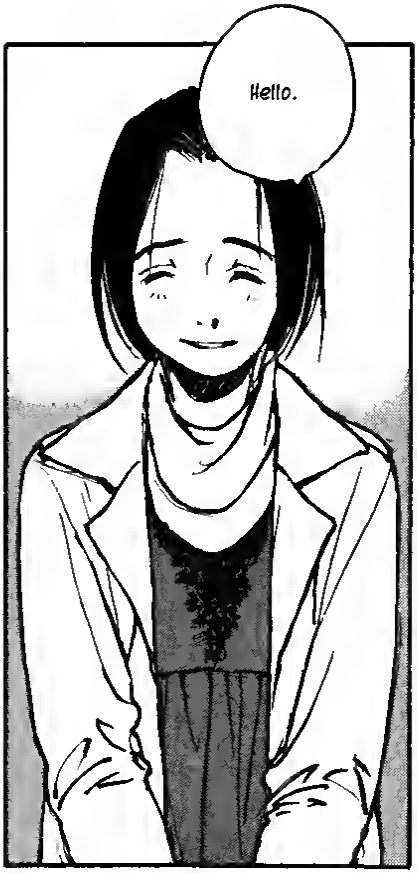
I'd have to charge, and you couldn't afford me.
Yeah, right.
Let go.
Ow.
If you really don't mind, why don't you just move in here and keep house for me?
SFX: SMACK


I'll be back in the morning.
Bye.
Good night.
If you're gonna be like this, I'm going home.
Honestly...
I was just playing around.
Anyway, you have class tomorrow, so let's call it a night.

That was dangerous.
I should have seen it coming, with us being alone together and all.
Hey! What the heck?
What do you mean "good night"? It's only eight o'clock!
...
...
That's right, tonight was...
What should I do?
It's only eight...
I could rent a movie on my way back...

These are from when our class went down to the river.
But there are way too many of Shinako.
Even the ones that were supposed to be of me ended up being pictures of her.
Oh my God! We're so young!
That was freshman year.
This is the only one of you, though.
Every time I look at these, I can't help thinking about how I'm not in any of them.
It hasn't been all that long, but these are starting to look strangely nostalgic.

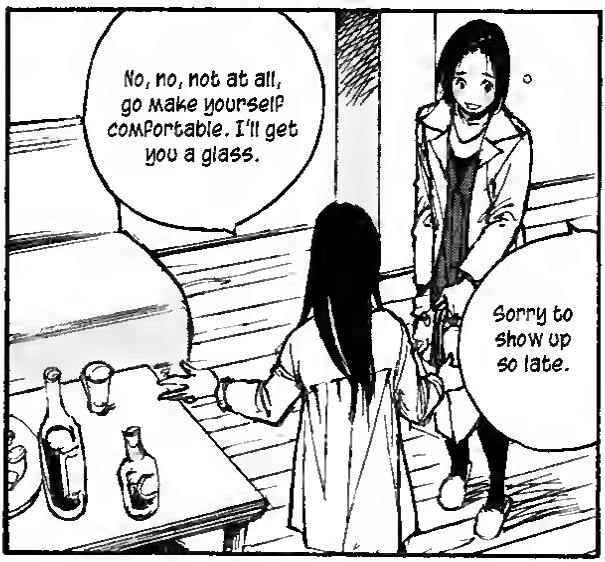
Oh, the phone.
RRRR
I'll get it.
And this from the guy who said he couldn't capture a person's character in a photo.
Shinako-san sure was pretty, even back then.
RRRR
Well... I dunno...
It's hard to tell.
Hey, so, how's it going? With you and Shinako-san?
Huh?
Must be tough, seeing as how you guys have been friends for so long.
Uh-huh. Yup. You know the place?


Hello.

All right.
See you.

Who was it?
カチャ
Not telling.

SFX: CLICK


No, no, not at all, go make yourself comfortable. I'll get you a glass.
Sorry to show up so late.

Shinako!

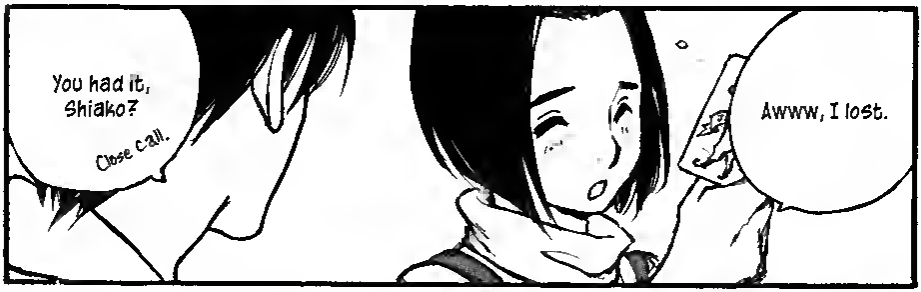
Who knows...
I came after all.
...
Is it all right?
Fukuda asked me to bring some old photos
Wow, this was Freshman year. How nostalgic.
What were you looking at?
Uhh... Just some photos...

Yeah, me either, it just turned out that way.
There's enough material there for a Shinako photo-book.
I didn't know there were so many shots of me
Maybe I should go home.
And anyway, this girl, she hates me...

Christmas Carol scene6

Sing Yesterday for Me
by Toume Kei
A Village Idiot Scanlation

Raws: VISCANS | Translation: Taylor | Proofreader: Zeroaintdead | Cleaner: freyje | Typesetter: Lucy97



What shall it be?
Okay then, let's have one more game and call it a night.
Rich Man, Poor Man.
Oh... it's already this late? I'd better get going soon.
I'll get us some coffee.
You deal.
What's up?
Come over here.
Uozumi-san, would you give me a hand?
Give this to Shinako-san.

Wait... I can't...
It's fine.
You didn't get her anything, right?
It's that necklace.
I wrapped it up in some new paper.
So give it to her.
Huh?
What is it?
Don't tell Shinako-san that, though.
And this is from me, so there's nothing weird about it.
Uh...
Go for it!
Well... all right, I guess... Thank you.

You're leaving?
Yeah.
Amamiya-san didn't come back, and I have to put Kansuke to bed.
My crow.
Is that your cat?
Anyway, I don't know the whole story, but don't give up on that girl.
Oh... yeah.
You too.
You're kinda weird, aren'tcha?
Is that so?
SFX: CLAP

キョロキョロ
Amamiya-san.
SFX: SEARCH SEARCH
What?!
If you're looking for that girl, she left.
She just walked out the door, so you can still catch her if you run.
SFX: DASH

Who's she talking to?
Is that guy a student here?
Ohh...
Kuzuhara-san.
What are they talking about?
I can't really hear, though.
She's mad about something.
?
SFX: FLYING KICK

...
What are you doing?
I... should be asking you that... anyway... you're here!
Long story?
I wasn't planning to come, but...
There was this guy who just wouldn't shut up about it, no matter how many times I hit him.
None of your business.
Okay
Oh
Hmph

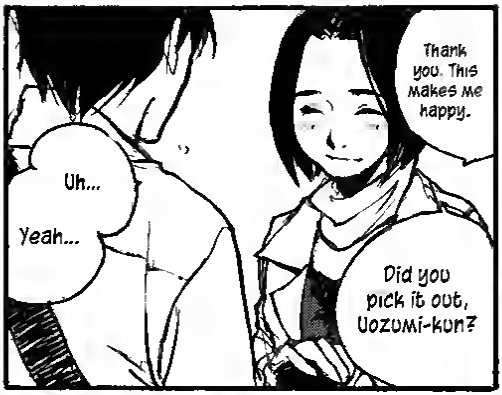
Amamiya-san.
はる…
You sure walk past.
Heeey.
Haru-chan.
SFX: HUFF
Do you always walk home?
I do. I live about ten minutes from the cafe.
All the teachers share an office, so it can get crazy.
Sorry, I had a really hard time finding that paper.
Oh... all right.
Thank you.
If you're heading back, I'll walk you.

I wonder if it'll snow before New Year's.
It usually doesn't start in Tokyo until about February, right?
I prefer cold weather to the heat, though.
I love snow, but I can't really take the cold.
Why?
I mean... I like the feeling of anticipation, when you come to the end of a year and you know that soon you'll have a chance to reset a lot of things.
This year's almost over already... It's gone by too fast.
It still is my favorite time of the year, though.

It's the same with New Year's. I like New Year's Eve, but once the New Year actually dawns, then it's kind of boring.
Oh?
At our house, we always had to clean and do housework up through New Year's Eve, so that's all I really remember.
Hey Shinako...
Thanks for walking me.
See ya.
I...
Um...
What?
ゴソ

SFX: RUMMAGE

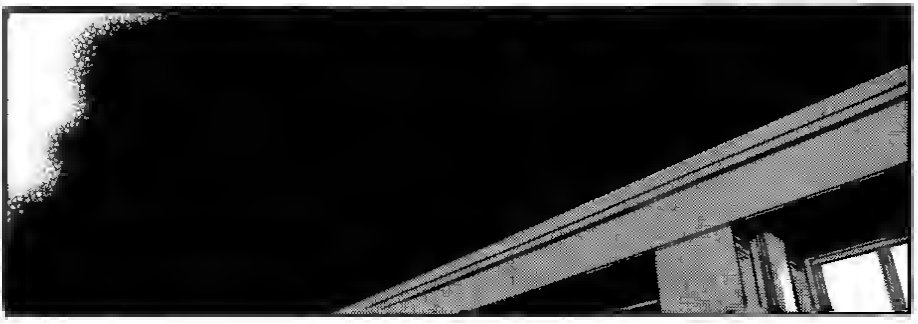
Um....
Whaa...
But I didn't get you anything...
Don't worry about it.
I don't know if you'll like it,
or if it's your style...
Can I open it?
Go ahead.


Thank you. This makes me happy.
Uh...
Yeah...
Did you pick it out, Uozumi-kun?

...

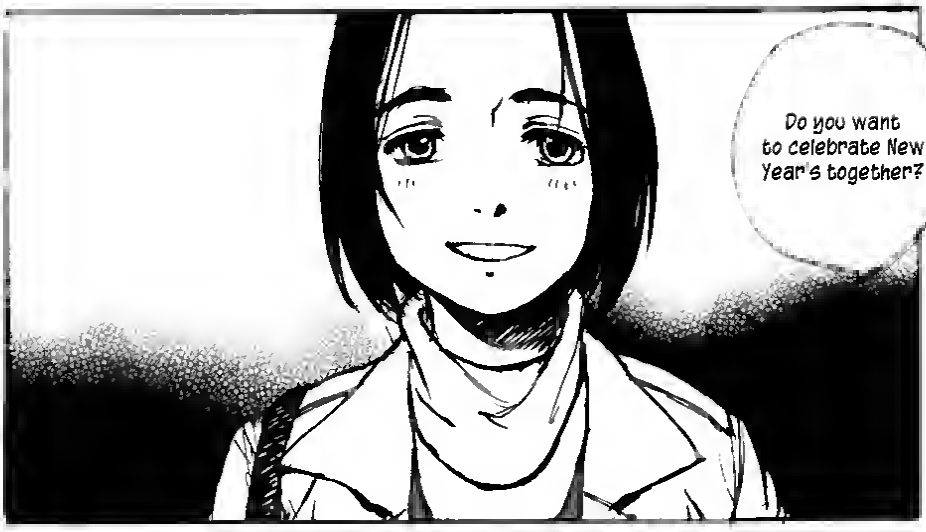
No.
Actually...

Wow...
How cute.
A moonstone.

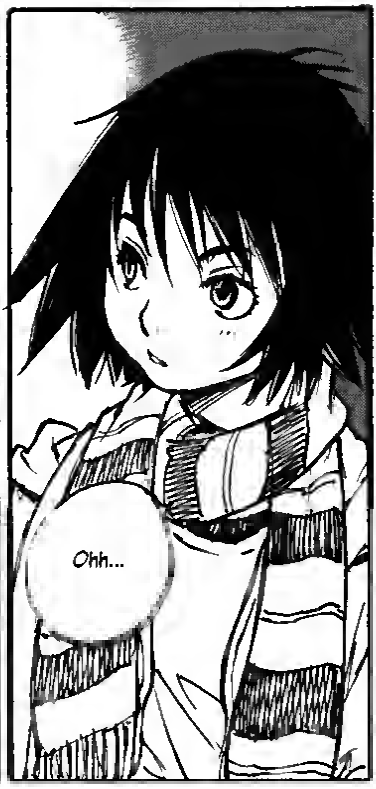


Sorry...
So... I didn't actually get it for you.
ぷっ
It's weird after all, right?
I'm sorry...
...
SFX: PFF
Strangely enough, I feel better now.
I just couldn't picture you picking out an accessory for a girl, Uozumi-kun.
That makes sense.
No... actually...

...
I've never given a present to a girl before
I'm probably doing it wrong.
Yeah. I think so too.
See you... next year, I guess.
Well, then.
I... decided not to go back to Kanazawa for New Year's.
So...
Uozumi-kun.

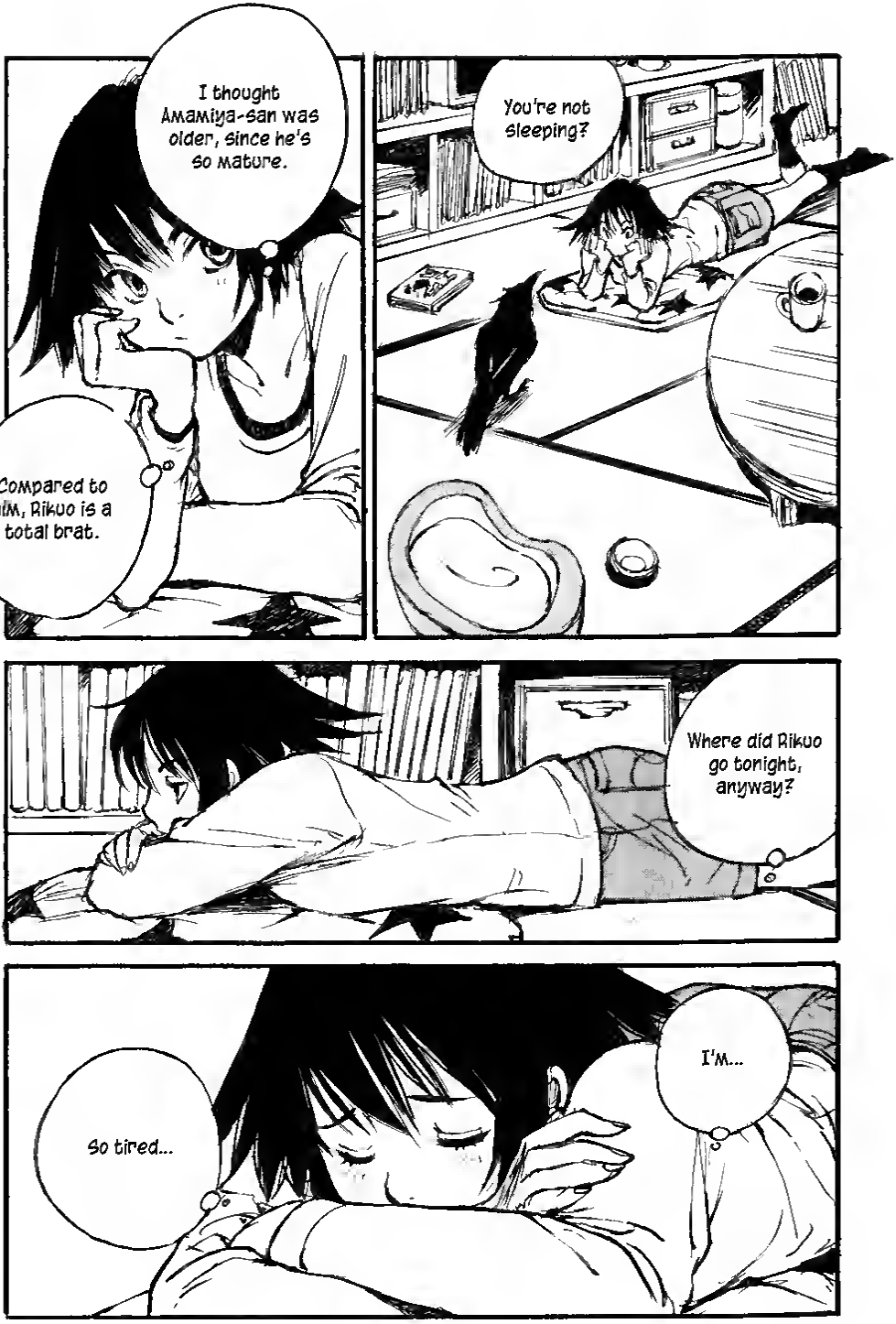

Do you want to celebrate New Year's together?

So you're still in college, Amamiya-san?
Yep. It's my third year. It took me three years to get in, though.

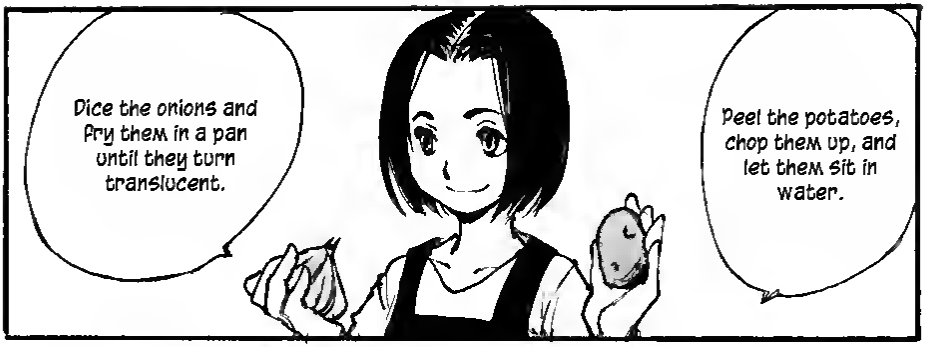

Ohh...

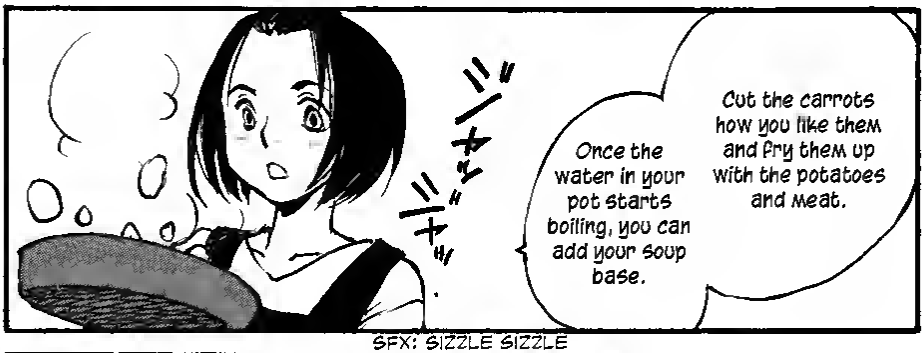
Um, Haru-chan.
Yup. It was my grandfather's before he died.
Bye. Thank you for walking me.
This is my house.
Wow, your own house?
What is it?
Let's see.
Probably through the 29th... I think.
Gotcha.
Up until when will you be working at the café, before New Year's?
Er...
I...

Okay.
Yeah...
Come by again, if you want.
Good night.
See you again, this year maybe.
...

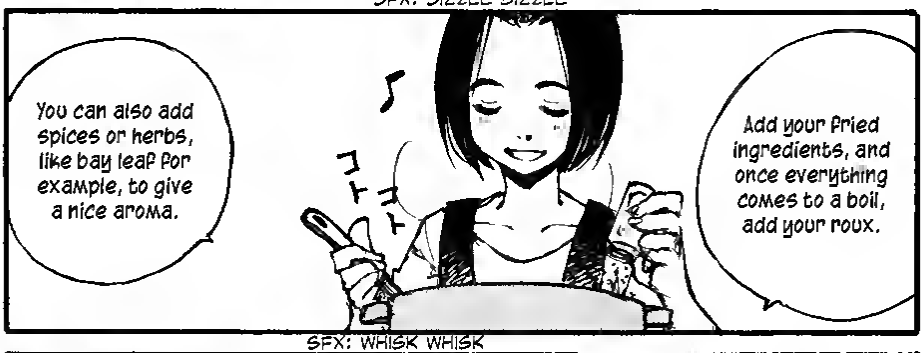

I thought Amamiya-san was older, since he's so mature.
Compared to him, Rikuo is a total brat.
You're not sleeping?
Where did Rikuo go tonight, anyway?
I'm...
So tired...

SFX: CLONK CLONK

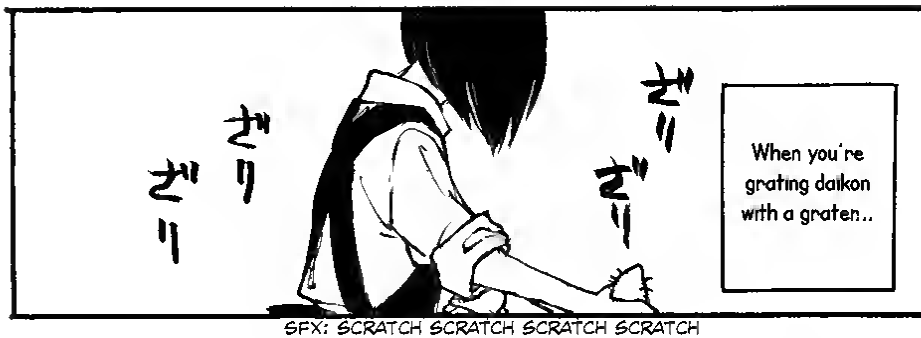



Cut the carrots how you like them and fry them up with the potatoes and meat.
Once the water in your pot starts boiling, you can add your soup base.

SFX: SIZZLE SIZZLE


You can also add spices or herbs, like bay leaf for example, to give a nice aroma.
Add your fried ingredients, and once everything comes to a boil, add your roux.

SFX: WHISK WHISK


When you're grating daikon with a graten...
SFX: SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH

When you're peeling carrots with a peelen...
SFX: SWISH SWISH

There's one thing you can't help thinking, even while you're thinking that you shouldn't:
And when you're slicing cucumbers with a mandolin...
SFX: SHWOOP SHWOOP

That.
Arrrrghhh, my finger!
Don't be gross.

「ビジネスジャンプ」H19年8号、10号、12号、14号、H20年9号、
11号、13号、15号、17号、19号に好評掲載されたものを収録しました。

◉ヤングジャンプ・コミックス◉
BJ

イエスタデイをうたって ❻

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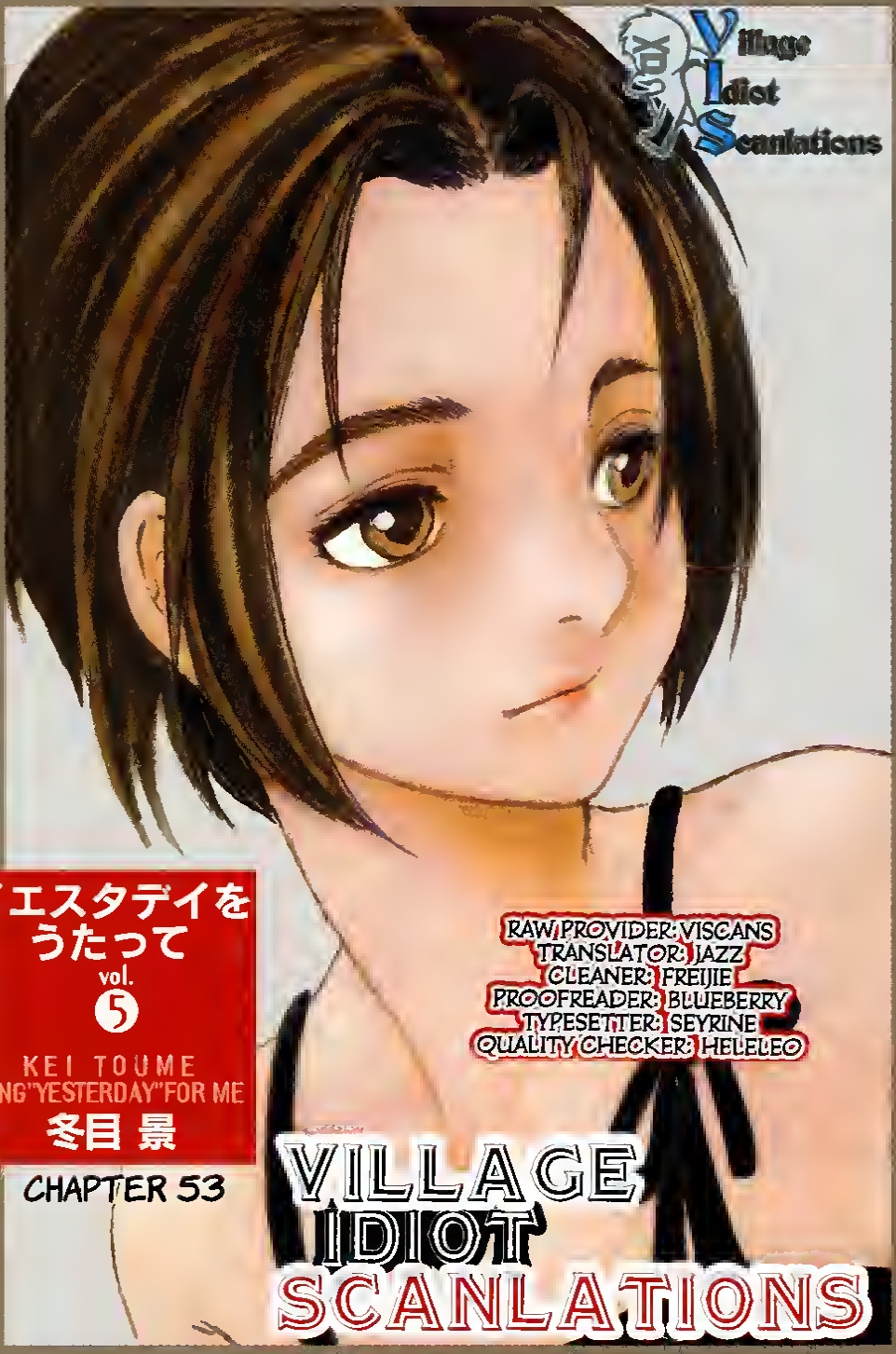
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